United Nations A/73/327

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 August 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Item 137 of the provisional agenda*
Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

Seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific premises in Bangkok

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is the second progress report on the seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) premises in Bangkok. The report is submitted pursuant to section XIII of resolution 72/262 A, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the implementation of the project at the main part of its seventy-third session.

The report provides an update on the progress made on the project since the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/72/338 and A/72/338/Corr.1), including the onboarding of the lead consultant firm, the revision to the construction methodology and creation of a strategy that now allows all occupants of the secretariat building to remain in on-site swing space without the inconvenience and added cost of relocating outside the ESCAP premises during construction. An update on the third-party peer review of the seismic design component and its integration into the overall project design is provided.

The report also provides an update on the development of the schematic design for the life-cycle replacement works and the interior construction of the secretariat, including the proposal for open-plan workspace so as to achieve the target of 20 per cent space efficiencies and support the implementation of flexible workplace strategies to further augment those efficiencies.

Updates are also provided on the outcome of the accessibility assessment surveys and the resulting road map, together with the activities conducted by the independent risk management firm to support the project team in identifying, managing and mitigating project risks.

* A/73/150.

18-13532 (E) 240818

Please recycle

While it is subject to risks, overall the project is on track, with construction estimated to be completed in 2023 within the overall estimated maximum cost of $40,019,000.

It is recommended that the General Assembly take note of the present progress report, take note of the revised project cost plan (contained in the annex to the present report), approve the establishment of two temporary positions in the project team and appropriate an amount of $4,484,500 for project activities in 2019.

I. Introduction

1. The present report is the second progress report on the seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) premises in Bangkok, which was approved by the General Assembly in section IV of its resolution 71/272 A, in which the Assembly authorized the activities related to all phases of the project. The present report is submitted pursuant to section XIII of General Assembly resolution 72/262 A, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the implementation of the project at the main part of its seventy-third session. The report provides an update on the progress made on the project since the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/72/338 and A/73/338/Corr.1).

2. The project continues to be implemented in accordance with the previously reported project objectives. The present report provides an update on the refinement of several objectives, namely:

(a) Additional progress made towards achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities;

(b) Additional efficiencies with respect to space utilization through the application of flexible workplace strategies;

(c) Minimizing disruption and maximizing business continuity of regular work activities by relying exclusively on on-site swing space.

3. In addition to the above, the report summarizes the planning and design activities undertaken by the project team to date and presents an update on: (a) the continued engagement with Member States and the ongoing support of the host Government; (b) the enhanced role of the Office of Central Support Services, Department of Management, of the Secretariat in New York in providing independent risk management services to the project; (c) the recruitment status of the dedicated project management team; (d) the onboarding of the lead consulting firm and commencement of the design phase, which, at the time of drafting the present report, was at the 50 per cent stage of development of the schematic design; (e) a report on the first Monte Carlo risk analysis, which concludes that the project is at risk of going over budget unless risk mitigation actions are taken; (f) the refinement of the construction methodology, which increases the number of phases from four to five and reduces the size of swing space from 4,000 to 2,000 square metres, an area that can be accommodated on site; (g) a revision to the project schedule in which the closeout phase is reduced to 6 months from the previously approved closeout period of 12 months, while still maintaining the overall construction duration and project completion date at the end of 2023; and (h) a cost plan showing the revised distribution of construction costs while staying within the overall approved budget.

4. The Secretary-General remains fully confident that the project will be completed within allocated budgetary resources and the approved project duration. The project budget remains at $40.019 million, inclusive of $3.194 million as contingency funding. Although at this stage of the development of the design, the risks to the project (at the time of drafting the present report) remain high, the project team considers that ample risk mitigating options are available and that the risk levels can be managed and reduced as the project progresses. Therefore, no additional funding is expected to be sought from the General Assembly to cover project risks.

II. Progress made on the project during the reporting period

A. Cooperation with Member States and the host Government

Member States

5. ESCAP has continued to brief and solicit voluntary contributions from Member States on a regular basis through the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives. The 369th and 370th meetings took place on 21 March and 30 June 2017 respectively. During and in the margins of these meetings, ESCAP followed up on the note verbale issued to all Member States on 12 January 2017. In addition, several bilateral meetings between the Director of Administration, as Project Executive, and individual Member States took place during the previous reporting period. Whereas a general willingness to support the project is evident, to date no concrete offers have been made. ESCAP has and will continue to impart upon all Member States the importance of voluntary contributions towards the success of the project.

6. With regard to the provision of technical and other support expertise, such as Junior Professional Officers and non-reimbursable loans, a request for pledges of Junior Professional Officers was made in a select range of job families and skill sets. ESCAP published the vacancy announcements on the website of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in July 2017 and the information was shared with Member States at the meetings of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives in the latter part of 2017. Although no responses have been received thus far, ESCAP will follow up with Member States which may be able to offer support.

Host country relations

7. Pursuant to paragraph 5 of section XIII of General Assembly resolution 72/262 A, ESCAP has continued to engage with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the host country to seek its assistance and support for the project. During the present reporting period, three meetings were held between the ESCAP Division of Administration and the Department of International Organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the host country, to keep the host country briefed on regular project progress and key milestones.

8. While the Ministry had previously identified accommodation options for use by ESCAP as temporary swing space during the project implementation, in January 2018 ESCAP informed the Ministry that the space was no longer required. This change to the overall project implementation strategy took effect in middle to late January 2018, based on the re-evaluation of the construction methodology undertaken by the lead consulting firm. It was determined that the need for off-site space could be avoided in favour of on-site only swing space, which was more cost-effective and more beneficial for business continuity. The Secretary-General remains grateful to the host country for the generous offer made.

9. During the present reporting period, the host country continued to support the project by facilitating discussions with ESCAP and relevant local authorities, such as the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration and the Council of Engineers of Thailand, to provide local expertise and to assist in establishing procedures necessary for the smooth and successful delivery of the project. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs supported the establishment of an advisory committee of local technical experts to provide technical advice and offer local expertise and best practices in the areas of local construction techniques, local expertise on occupational health and safety during construction in an occupied building, permits, building codes and required approvals.

B. Project governance

10. In accordance with the governance structure described in the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/72/338 and A/72/338/Corr.1), the project owner is the Executive Secretary of ESCAP; the Director of Administration at ESCAP has been assigned to serve as the Project Executive. The day-to-day project execution is under the leadership of the dedicated Project Manager, who has been on board since September 2017.

Stakeholders committee

11. The stakeholders committee meets on a quarterly basis and is kept abreast of regular progress in the project at those meetings and through status reports from the Project Executive. During its meeting on 24 April 2018, the committee was briefed on general progress, the change to the implementation strategy, the budget, the schedule of work and risk management activities.

12. With respect to the implementation strategy, members of the committee raised concerns regarding business continuity and occupational health and safety during the construction period. The project team underscored that both issues were among the key project objectives and reported that mitigating measures would be taken to minimize risks during the project, such as performing heavy construction during off hours and providing adequate information technology (IT) tools and promoting the use of flexible workplace strategies during the project, in line with lessons learned from other capital projects undertaken by the Organization, as well as local best practices as shared by the technical advisory committee established with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Thai Council of Engineers.

13. With respect to client engagement, given the importance of visible leadership in change management, the stakeholders committee was informed that change champions (project focal points) had been assigned from each occupant group being affected by the project. A second stakeholder committee meeting took place on 24 July 2018, during which stakeholders were further advised of the development of the detailed design, including the open-office flexible workspace solution and the ESCAP space guidelines currently under development.

Coordination and oversight by the Office of Central Support Services at Headquarters

14. Ongoing coordination between ESCAP and the Office of Central Support Services at Headquarters has continued during the present reporting period in line with the project coordination agreement signed in 2017. Regular coordination meetings between the dedicated project management team and the Global Property Management Service of the Office of Central Support Services are held fortnightly regarding day-to-day project execution.

15. The dedicated Project Coordination Officer, located in the Global Property Management Service in New York and funded partly by the project (cost shared with the Africa Hall project at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)), came on board in November 2017. The Coordination Officer has assumed the role of primary interlocutor between the project team and Headquarters-based entities, sharing lessons learned and best practices, and is the primary focal point for risk management activities.

16. In October 2017, in line with paragraph 9 of section XIII of General Assembly resolution 72/262 A, in which the Assembly emphasized that the Office of Central Support Services should be actively involved in overseeing the project to ensure the

central supervision of capital projects, including risk management and alignment with lessons learned, the Office contracted an international firm with relevant experience in the design and construction industry to support the Office in providing independent risk management services for the project. Risk management is further described in section D below.

C. Project management

Project team

17. Of the seven currently approved project positions, six are encumbered. As indicated in the two previous annual reports (A/71/333, A/71/333/Corr.1, A/72/338 and A/72/338/Corr.1), ESCAP and the Office of Central Support Services conducted extensive outreach to attract qualified female candidates. Of the five Professional-level project positions, four are encumbered by women, including the Project Manager and the New York-based Project Coordinator.

18. The recruitment of the Building Electromechanical Engineer (National Officer), approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/262 A, is currently in progress and the incumbent is expected to be on board by 1 September 2018.

19. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/272 A (sect. IV, para. 23), in which the Secretary-General was requested to ensure that resource requirements at each stage of the project are based on a thorough review of actual and up-to-date needs on the ground, ESCAP continues to review the workload, tasks and resource requirements based on actual needs at each stage of the project.

20. In line with best practices and lessons learned from other capital projects, ESCAP aims to enter into an on-call technical services contract to provide ad hoc specialized technical services to bridge any gaps, as well as to augment the skills and capacity of the dedicated project management team.

D. Risk management

Independent risk management firm

21. The Office of Central Support Services has, in consultation with the ESCAP project team, established a risk management strategy for the project. This strategy: (a) establishes processes and procedures for the identification and assessment of risks and for prioritizing them in accordance with their evaluation; (b) once a risk is identified, facilitates planning the implementation of risk responses that ensure a successful delivery of the expected project objectives; and (c) in line with recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/72/7/Add.6, para. 22), enables the Organization to assess and manage a risk-based contingency budget.

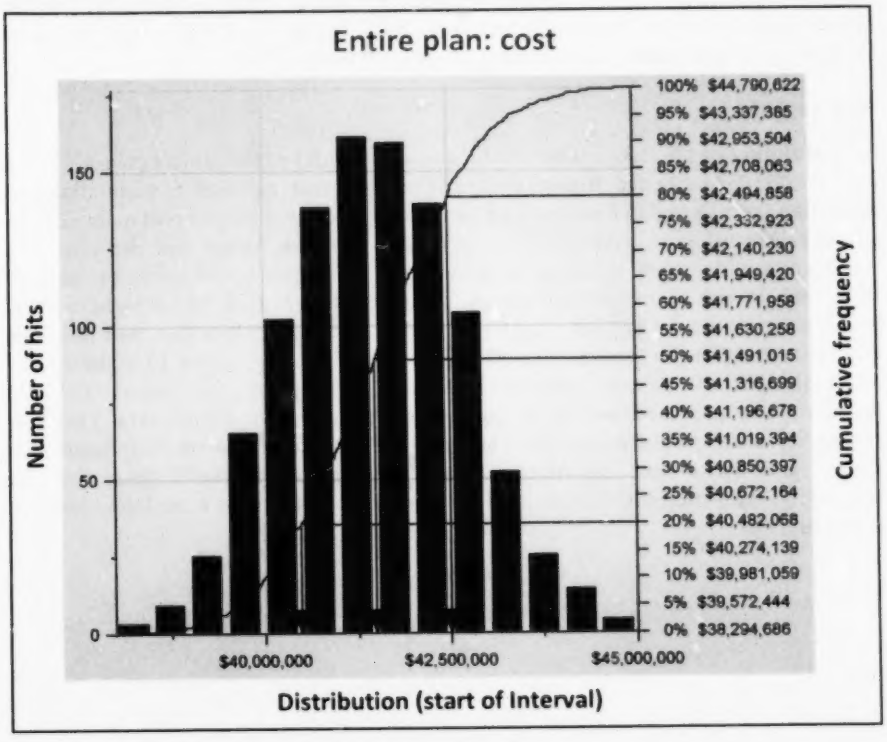
22. In March 2018, a risk workshop was undertaken in Bangkok, facilitated by the Project Coordination Officer from the Office of Central Support Services and attended by the project team, ESCAP stakeholders and representatives from the independent risk management firm. The outcomes and products of the workshop were the project risk management strategy document, a risk register and a quantitative (Monte Carlo) analysis of risks. The independent risk management firm will also produce two annual reports, the first of which was issued in July 2018. The second report is expected to be issued in the first quarter of 2019.

23. The Monte Carlo risk analysis takes input from the project team, including risk scores (indicating the probability and likelihood) and the most likely range of

quantitative effects of each risk, and simulates approximately 1,000 theoretical versions of the project. The Monte Carlo analysis serves to provide a snapshot of the most likely overall cost of known risks at the time when inputs from the project team were provided. At the time of the risk workshop, the project design status was only midway through the schematic design phase. This meant that a high level of design uncertainty remained and the risk levels appeared high. The Monte Carlo analysis shows the overall projected effect of known risks on the project, assuming that no further mitigating actions are taken.

24. For the Secretariat's capital construction projects, a "P80" benchmark has been established as the target for measuring risk on a given project, which means that the project team would ideally strive to have an 80 per cent confidence level that the project will be completed within budget. A summary of the first Monte Carlo analysis of this project is shown in the form of a cost histogram in figure I.

Figure I
Cost histogram of analysed risks as at June 2018



25. The first Monte Carlo simulation shows that at the United Nations benchmark level of 80 per cent, the project would be expected to come in at approximately $42.5 million, or $2.5 million over budget. The cost histogram above illustrates that there is a relatively low level of confidence, or roughly 12 per cent, that the project will be completed within the approved project budget of $40.019 million without further risk mitigation action. While it is normal that at the early stages of a project a large number of unknown factors may lead to exposure to high risk, the Secretariat considers that the risk confidence level of the project at this stage is unusually low.

26. Fully cognizant of the risks identified, the Secretariat is proactively managing them. As described in paragraph 37 of the present report, a value engineering exercise was conducted from February to March 2018, with the goal of targeting optimal

solutions at a lower cost, without compromising quality. A second value engineering workshop was held in May 2018, chaired by the Project Executive and attended by representatives of the Office of Central Support Services, the project team and project stakeholders to further identify strategies for reducing the risk of budget overruns. In line with the outcomes of these efforts, the project team will be able to issue final construction documents for bids so that the actual cost of the construction phase of the project will most likely be delivered within budget. As the project design progresses, it is expected that the confidence level reported in the cost histogram will rise.

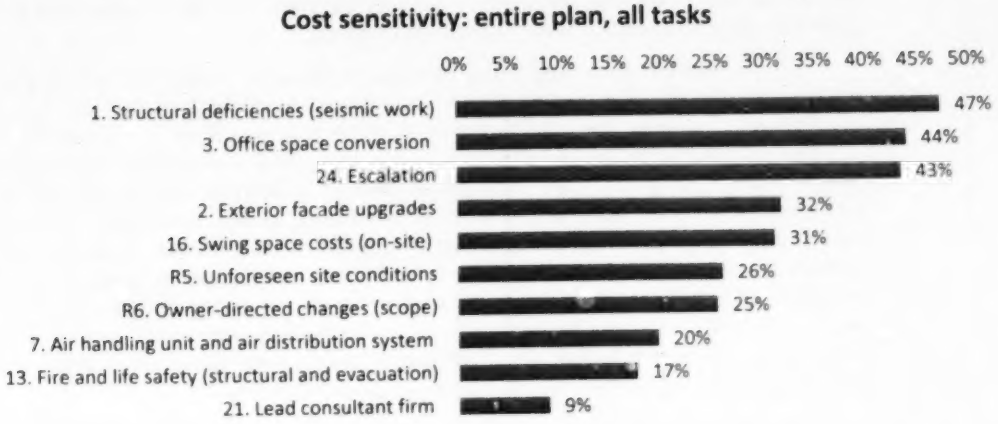
Integrated risk management

27. Integrated risk management continues to be performed at the local level by the ESCAP dedicated project management team supported by the lead consulting firm. The lead consulting firm continues to support ESCAP, in coordination with the independent risk management firm, during the various project phases, including design, the tendering process and construction. Given that the project is currently in the design and tender phase, most of the risks given high priority during the present reporting period relate to design risks, especially on the need for design decisions (risk mitigating actions) required from the project team.

Risk register

28. Building on the risk register established at the onset of the project (see A/72/338 and A/72/338/Corr.1), the project team refined its current approach to populating and managing the risk register in line with the newly developed project risk management strategy. All risks are given scores and assigned a risk owner and the proposed responses are identified. Risks are monitored and controlled by the project team and, following the risk management strategy, emphasis is placed on the 10 highest risks, because these pose the highest overall risk to the project and mitigating their potential effects could offer the greatest beneficial impact. A summary of the 10 highest risks and their ratio of potential individual impact to the overall risk impact (i.e. cost sensitivity) is provided below in the cost sensitivity chart (figure II). The cost sensitivity chart measures the correlation or relationship between individual risk entries and the overall estimated amount at completion. The higher the cost sensitivity, the stronger the relationship between the estimate at completion and the individual risk.

Figure II
Cost sensitivity (Tornado) chart as at June 2018


Cost sensitivity: entire plan, all tasks
0% 5% 10% 15% 20% 25% 30% 35% 40% 45% 50%
1. Structural deficiencies (seismic work) 47%
3. Office space conversion 44%
24. Escalation 43%
2. Exterior facade upgrades 32%
16. Swing space costs (on-site) 31%
R5. Unforeseen site conditions 26%
R6. Owner-directed changes (scope) 25%
7. Air handling unit and air distribution system 20%
13. Fire and life safety (structural and evacuation) 17%
21. Lead consultant firm 9%

Description of the five highest project risks

29. The five highest risks identified in the risk cost sensitivity chart (Tornado chart) shown in figure II are explained in more detail, with a description of the risk response, as follows:

(a) **Structural deficiencies**. The risk of structural deficiencies is inherent in the project. The structural part of the project scope carries the risk of being potentially the most disruptive to business operations because it involves heavy and noisy work and potentially vibrations in the primary structure, and because of unforeseen field conditions, given that the conditions are part of the existing structure. This risk is being mitigated by extensive surveys of existing conditions; however, it is not totally avoidable;

(b) **Office space conversion**. This risk is inherent to the project. Renovation of existing premises carries risk owing to unknown conditions that may be revealed during the demolition or construction process and potential delays in the delivery of materials, equipment and furnishings. As at the midpoint of the schematic design development stage in May 2018, the cost estimate for typical interior construction (including finished ceiling material, lighting fixtures, interior hard walls, doors and hardware) exceeded the estimated budget for this line item. Although some additional features are required owing to the implementation of flexible workplace strategies, the project team will aim to value engineer the remaining items to the allocated budget, before completion of the design, to ensure that this risk does not fully materialize. This risk is being mitigated through extensive surveying of the site and conditions and through market research of material suppliers; however, it is not completely avoidable;

(c) **Escalation**. At the time of the development of the initial project budget in 2016 (as contained in document A/71/333 and A/71/333/Corr.1) using a baseline year of July 2017, escalation was calculated at 4 per cent of construction trade costs, using a forward projection of published data on recent past escalation rates, compounded from the time the estimate was developed until the midpoint of construction. To mitigate the risk of additional escalation resulting from slippage in the construction schedule, the team intends to include in the request for proposals from general contractors the requirement for the contractor to purchase many of the construction

materials up front at a fixed cost and warehouse them in a secure location. This may have the benefit of reduced costs as a result of economies of scale by purchasing in bulk as opposed to smaller orders to match construction phasing. However, any change in market rates (up or down) is beyond the control of the Organization and therefore must be absorbed within the project budget;

(d) **Exterior facade upgrades**. This risk includes the replacement of the glass walls of the secretariat tower, which are currently made of single-pane glass with a low efficiency rating. The manufacturing of glass wall solutions is susceptible to deficiencies and to challenges in the assembling of various components. This portion of the risk is being mitigated through proposals for options with higher energy efficiency values. In addition, marble is a natural, heavy stone and therefore susceptible to variations and deterioration owing to climate conditions and subject to problems associated with its installation. Additional risk lies in the availability of materials and skilled labour for installation. This risk is being mitigated through market research into new technology and products, including stone veneer over insulated panels with a higher energy efficiency rating, such as the external thermal insulation composite system referred to in paragraph 43 below;

(e) **Swing space costs**. As described in paragraphs 54–58 of the present report, the one-time capital costs of providing swing space, as well as costs related to ongoing operations and moves throughout the project implementation, represent a significant project risk. This is being mitigated by constructing some of the swing space on-site and minimizing the disruption and the related costs inherent in multiple moves and in maintaining multiple sites.

E. Procurement

30. ESCAP continues to ensure that the procurement of goods and services for the project is carried out in a timely manner and in strict compliance with the regulations, rules and relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions governing procurement in the United Nations.

31. The acquisition of the services of a lead consulting firm was one of the main critical requirements for the planning phase of the project in 2017. Procurement action was completed as planned and a contract was signed in October 2017 with a consulting, engineering and architecture company with a contract amount not to exceed €2,348,768.

32. The next phase of the project will focus on the procurement of construction works by the main contractor and the provision of office furniture, moving and logistics services and supply and installation of IT and security equipment. The ESCAP Procurement Unit is currently working on contracting for construction work for on-site swing space, for professional services to provide third-party peer review of the lead consulting firm and for on-call professional technical services to support and augment the project team as the need arises.

33. Acquiring the services of a general contractor in a timely manner is critical for the project. It is planned that a request for proposals will be issued in January 2019, with the ESCAP Procurement Unit currently carrying out extensive outreach with Member States, the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, the Thai Chamber of Commerce, local newspapers, the United Nations Global Marketplace and the Procurement Division of the Secretariat and on ESCAP websites with a view to reaching the widest possible audience. The ESCAP Procurement Unit and the project team have also reached out to colleagues in other duty stations who have had experience in sourcing similar services for other capital projects, as well as the Office of Legal Affairs of the

Secretariat and the Procurement Division to ensure that a proper procurement strategy is in place.

34. The above-mentioned anticipated major procurement activities were identified as critical project requirements for 2018 and 2019 and are planned to be executed in a timely manner so as to avoid delays in the completion of the project.

F. Overall project design and integration of seismic design component

35. The seismic retrofit and life-cycle replacements project is to be designed by the lead consulting firm within the strict parameters of cost-effective design, accelerated construction, the available budget set by the General Assembly and cost plans approved by ESCAP. The onboarding of the lead consulting firm, an architecture and engineering consultancy business with its headquarters in Spain, took place in October 2017. The initial site visit in the same month was used to conduct extensive surveys, assess current conditions and prepare an in-depth analysis of current building data and documents.

36. Following the initial site surveys and condition assessments, a project inception report was submitted in December 2017. This was the first major deliverable output from the lead consulting firm and its objective was to set the criteria and basis for the design phase, which started in January 2018. The inception report detailed the major areas of scope to be addressed under the objectives of the seismic mitigation project, including seismic mitigation compliance, occupant safety (including fire and life safety[1] and elimination of hazardous materials) and security, life-cycle replacement to maintain building asset value, space optimization, universally accessible premises, sustainability and energy efficiency. These overall objectives have been adopted by the United Nations across duty stations following the recommendations of the strategic capital review.

37. To deliver the major products for the design phase in 2018, the lead consulting firm is scheduled to make six or seven visits of at least a week's duration each. Of these visits, four had already been completed at the time of the present report. As the first activity for the design phase, the lead consulting firm developed a conceptual and schematic design for review by ESCAP. While the conceptual and schematic design was being developed, and as a parallel activity, the lead consulting firm also conducted the first value engineering workshop at ESCAP in February/March 2018. During this workshop, which was attended by the lead consulting firm, the project team, ESCAP stakeholders and other internal stakeholders, the lead consulting firm presented several viable design options to address each major area of scope for consideration by ESCAP. The corresponding costs in the low, medium and high ranges were also provided. After extensive review and consultations, the seismic mitigation project team has selected proposals that adequately address each area of scope, as well as the goal of staying within the approved project budget.

Seismic retrofit design

38. The seismic retrofit design continued to be developed further by the Asian Institute of Technology throughout 2017. In October 2017, the lead consulting firm started the structural peer review of the retrofit design and has recommended revisions and adjustments to the structural design. The peer review of the secretariat building was completed in June 2018. The percentage of columns to be retrofitted is

[1] The term "life safety" refers to the safe use of fixed building elements during any emergency, especially fire or earthquake, or other event such as a power outage.

approximately 10 per cent of the total number of columns, whereas the percentage of beams to be retrofitted is roughly 30 per cent. While some small portions of the link bridge slabs were identified as requiring retrofit, there was a decrease in the percentage of wall area requiring carbon fibre reinforced polymers. The peer review for the ESCAP service building will be finalized in August 2018.

39. The lead consulting firm has reconfirmed what was noted in last year's internal review, that the approach proposed by the Asian Institute of Technology of using carbon fibre reinforced polymers to reinforce the columns and beams is a feasible and cost-effective solution. The carbon fibre reinforced polymers integrate the seismic retrofit into the overall final architecture and engineering design package for the project. The Asian Institute of Technology will continue to be available to provide any clarifications and make any necessary amendments and will continue to maintain responsibility for the seismic design throughout the project.

40. Furthermore, the project scope addressing the safety of the non-structural components within the facilities in case of a seismic event will also be covered by the lead consulting firm, with completion expected by November 2018.

Life-cycle replacement design

41. The life-cycle replacement scope of the project covers the areas of fire and life safety, upgrades of heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems, electrical systems, lighting, IT upgrades, the facade, the roof, sewerage and plumbing upgrades and interior renovation works. These works will be designed and implemented with due consideration given to the overarching goal of achieving an energy efficient, sustainable and universally accessible premises.

Facade and roof

42. The treatment of the current secretariat facade is one of the main tasks of the life-cycle replacements project and a significant contributor to the objective of achieving the 16–18 per cent improvement in energy efficiency. The project team reviewed five proposals for a glazed facade provided by the lead consulting firm as part of the first value engineering workshop concluded in April 2018. Of the five options reviewed, the third option was selected as the most cost effective one that meets the energy efficiency objectives. This solution consists of replacing the current glazing with superior, high-quality double glazed laminated windows with increased light transmittance and reduced heat gain and an external thermal insulation composite system to cover the concrete beams. The existing marble facade, which is no longer stable, will also be removed and replaced with an external thermal insulation composite system. This new facade will support further energy efficiency improvements in the building and provide weather protection for the building.

43. The lead consulting firm designers have used computer energy modelling methods to confirm improvements in energy efficiency of the proposed facade solution, which is expected to reduce energy consumption by 387 MWh per year, once fully installed. The new facade will also have a minimal impact on the visual identity of the ESCAP secretariat building. ESCAP will consult with technical experts, review local building regulations and consult with protocol experts nominated by the host country to ensure the facade renovation and its appearance comply with local standards and requirements.

44. The secretariat building roof will also undergo full replacement of the waterproofing surfaces and upgraded water collection and drainage and structural support points in preparation for the future installation of solar photovoltaic panels.

Electrical and lighting

45. The inspection and on-site assessment of the secretariat building's current electrical and lighting systems revealed that the wiring is well beyond its useful life and must be replaced for safety reasons. The electrical distribution systems from the main supply bus ducts to floor distribution must all be replaced. This replacement will include the installation of smart panels and the replacement of all old and deteriorated electrical items throughout the building. The building's lighting distribution system will also be upgraded, with all lighting fixtures and downlights replaced with LED lamps. A new smart lighting control system with occupancy and daylight sensors is also under consideration. With the new lighting distribution system to provide adequate illuminance combined with maximum daylight use, this new solution will support an enhanced interior workspace and further improve the energy savings of the project.

Fire and life safety

46. The fire and life safety elements of the project are driven by life safety, with the lead consulting firm site assessment and document review identifying that the structure is deficient in terms of structural fire protection. Deficiencies include inadequate fire ratings of beams, columns and floor slabs. Other shortcomings identified are being addressed through the proposed design, including: (a) stair emergency egress widths; (b) smoke compartments; and (c) fire lobbies. Elevator pressurization identified under the project scope was only a partial solution to the fire and life safety requirements and has been expanded to be a more complete and code compliant solution.

Energy efficiency and sustainability

47. The energy engineers in the lead consulting firm reviewed relevant project documentation including the report on facade performance done in 2012 as mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General of 2016 (A/71/333 and A/71/333/Corr.1, paras. 38 and 39) and all applicable codes and standards, including those related to energy and water conservation, with the objective of transforming the secretariat building into a more sustainable and efficient building facility.

48. Based on the initial studies, the project will aim for Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design (LEED) compliance for building renovation projects and WELL building standard (a building standard that measures occupant wellness in the built environment) compliance. There are 24 environmental measures being implemented in the project that have been identified in accordance with LEED and WELL requirements. Each one has been adapted and interpreted as actions. These measures involve energy consumption, improving occupant well-being, reducing the use of non-renewable material resources and waste generation, and improving atmospheric and indoor air quality, as well as due consideration for other social aspects.

49. To achieve the 16–18 per cent energy efficiency gain projected in the 2016 report of the Secretary-General (A/71/333 and A/71/333/Corr.1) the design has evolved in multiple areas: (a) upgrading the existing facade, including the replacement of the current glazing and marble cladding to reduce heat gain in the building; (b) upgrading the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems to support more efficient cooling of the building with a reduced dependency on electricity required to cool chiller water; (c) reducing the dependency on artificial lighting through the implementation of energy efficient green lighting solutions; and (d) leveraging the abundance of available natural light through the implementation of

an open, flexible workspace environment that eliminates most of the closed offices along the facade windows.

Accessibility

50. Since the last progress report on the subject (A/72/338 and A/72/338/Corr.1), the project team has continued its collaboration with the Social Development Division of ESCAP to build on the work delivered earlier in 2017 by the expert consultants on universal design and accessibility, with a view to bringing the project into line with the vision of the General Assembly expressed in resolution 70/170 of an inclusive United Nations for persons with disabilities. The campus-wide accessibility assessment conducted by the expert consultants was completed on 8 October 2017 with the final approval of the accessibility report issued by the ESCAP accessibility working group in June 2018.

51. The report, developed by the team of external experts, details the findings from the assessment, which included: (a) a three-week on-site assessment of the facilities; (b) a series of interviews with key stakeholders, including the Facilities Management Unit, the Human Resources Management Section, the Learning Centre, the Medical Centre and the Conference Management Unit; and (c) two surveys, comprising an in-person site survey and an electronic questionnaire.

52. The surveys solicited feedback from two main audiences: persons with disabilities, and the staff at large. The in-person inclusivity site survey was spearheaded jointly by the accessibility consultants and the ESCAP Social Development Division and included a series of walk-throughs of the various areas of the premises with persons with disabilities. This survey was used to gain user perspective on the accessibility, or lack thereof, of the ESCAP premises. The second survey was an electronically distributed questionnaire sent to all staff that work on the ESCAP premises. It was completed by 25 per cent of staff, including staff of agencies, to gain general feedback on the perceived accessibility of spaces, services and technologies on the ESCAP premises from the end-user perspective, including persons with disabilities and those without disabilities. The feedback from both surveys was used to augment and validate the identified remedial work recommendations proposed in the accessibility road map. The accessibility road map was then broken down into detailed remedial actions under the three main areas of: (a) the built environment, (b) information and communications technology; and (c) services, with ownership assigned to the many stakeholders who were involved in the exercise.

53. The interior renovation works in the secretariat building will incorporate, as part of the design, accessibility features identified in the accessibility road map and complying with United Nations and international standards.

Construction methodology and swing space strategy

54. During the development of the schematic design by the lead consulting firm, the project team has refined the approach to the overall implementation strategy, in particular regarding the swing space strategy. This has resulted in a strategy that allows all occupants to be accommodated in on-site swing space without the inconvenience and the added cost of relocating outside the ESCAP premises.

55. In the previous two reporting periods, the swing space strategy focused on securing a combination of both off-site and on-site swing space. The logic at the time was to minimize the amount of disruption on the ESCAP compound, and therefore have the least negative impact on the project schedule and overall delivery.

56. Because securing convenient off-site swing space in relatively proximity to the ESCAP compound proved more difficult than anticipated, the benefits of keeping all occupants on site during the construction period became apparent. The added benefit of avoiding sunk costs (i.e. those that would offer no direct long-term benefit to the Organization) of rent, utilities, security and IT systems to be installed off-site also became clearer during the schematic design and initial costing exercise. Accordingly, the team set out to refine the implementation strategy with two goals: (a) adjust the number and size of construction phases to minimize the need for swing space; and (b) redouble efforts to locate on-site swing space through construction and/or repurposing existing, underutilized or non-essential space.

57. The result of these efforts was to increase the number of construction phases from four to five, which reduced the number of staff in each move and reduced the swing space required from 4,000 to 2,000 square metres. This enables all swing space to be provided on site, in what is currently the ground floor of the secretariat building and through the construction of 1,200 square meters of additional space on the ESCAP premises. This will significantly reduce the risk of disruption to business continuity and general efficient delivery of services during the project construction period.

58. The five-phase construction methodology will also allow construction to take place in smaller sections of the secretariat building, requiring only one tower block to be scaffolded at a time, thereby reducing the costs of scaffolding and minimizing the negative impacts on the appearance of the secretariat building during the construction period.

Space efficiency and utilization

59. In accordance with the Secretary-General's report contained in document A/71/333 and A/71/333/Corr.1, in a study conducted in 2015 ESCAP determined that its space efficiency could be improved by 20 per cent as compared with existing conditions by changing the interior office layout from predominantly fully enclosed private offices to an open office environment, with the new configuration being well-suited to easily adopting flexible workplace strategies.

60. As part of the interior construction works, the project will implement a new office space solution, incorporating features aimed at achieving increased space efficiency. These features include provision of open workspace that eliminates closed offices along the window facades, limited enclosed areas on floor plates, increased access to natural light and reduced dependency on artificial lighting, reduced individually assigned space supported by increased access to specific activity-based working areas for the use of all occupants (such as huddle spaces, interview rooms, focus booths, breakout areas and resource areas). The new design approach will also eliminate the duplication of specific services on each floor and look to consolidating these on a common services floor. Such services will include larger meeting rooms, including rooms with videoconferencing and other specialized equipment, which is similar to best practices from the capital master plan in New York and the strategic heritage plan in Geneva.

61. In addition to promoting increased space efficiency, the move from enclosed offices to open workspace will also support increased collaboration and cross pollination of ideas and expertise while still providing the types of workspaces needed for focused work.

62. Further to the initial space efficiency objective of the project, during the present reporting period the project team conducted a space utilization study similar to studies conducted across the United Nations, including in New York, Geneva and Nairobi. The average utilization rate of typical offices and workstations at ESCAP was found to be 45 per cent. This is in line with the results of similar studies in other United

Nations duty stations and indeed rates from other international organizations, in both the private and public sectors.

63. The total number of occupants in the secretariat building at present is approximately 1,250. Of these, slightly less than half are ESCAP staff, the other half are tenants (agencies, funds and programmes and other offices funded from extrabudgetary resources). As initially reported in the 2016 report of the Secretary-General (A/71/333 and A/71/333/Corr.1), however, the tenants currently utilize their individual spaces (in terms of size and area) more efficiently than ESCAP. By ESCAP effecting a 20 per cent increase in efficiency through moving from an enclosed to an open office work environment, the utilization rates between ESCAP and tenants would be better balanced, and as a result approximately 1,800 square metres of workspace could be recouped to accommodate an additional 150 occupants in the renovated ESCAP secretariat building.

64. Table 1 below shows the additional rental workspace gained from applying the 20 per cent space efficiency measures.

Table 1
Space efficiency calculations

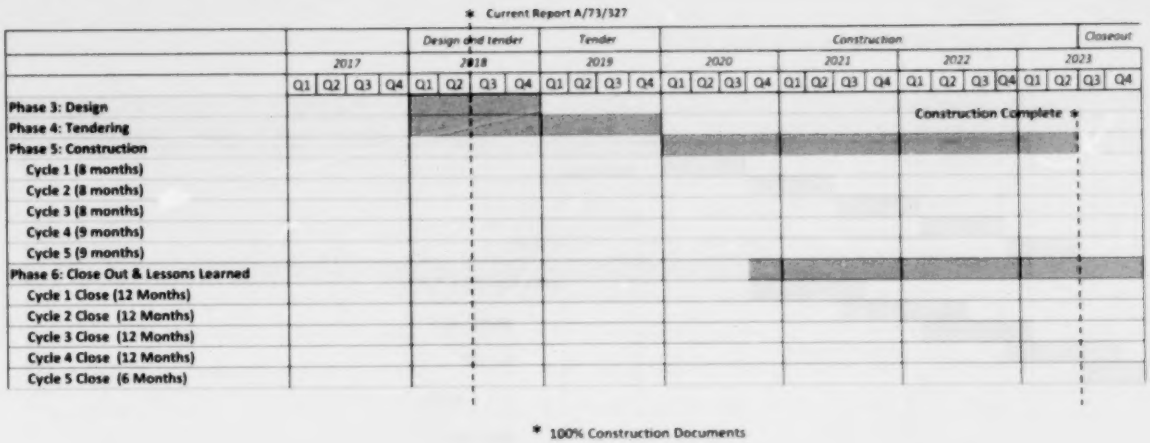
	Gross area office space (square metres)		
Scenario	*ESCAP*	*Tenants*	*Total*
Existing conditions	9 500	7 900	17 400
Post-renovation, without flexible workplace strategies[a]	7 700	9 700	17 400

[a] Assumes 20 per cent efficiency gain over existing conditions. Additional efficiencies are expected with the implementation of flexible workspace strategies.

G. Project schedule

65. Overall, it is currently estimated that the project will be completed on schedule by the end of 2023. Owing to the revised implementation strategy and the lead time required for preparing on-site swing space, construction works will now begin in early 2020 instead of mid-2019 as had previously been reported in document A/72/338 and A/72/338/Corr.1. To comply with the originally approved project end date of December 2023, however, the closeout periods will now be staggered to begin after the completion of each of the five construction phases, with the final closeout phase being reduced from 12 to 6 months. Figure III illustrates how the staggered closeout phases will be implemented.

Figure III
Staggered closeout schedule



66. Bearing in mind the staggered closeout phases and as a risk mitigating action to ensure the project closeout phases are managed properly, the Facilities Management Unit in ESCAP, as the future custodian of the upgraded secretariat building, will work very closely with the project team throughout the closeout process and take ownership of any closeout activities that extend beyond the approved project end date.

67. The shift in the construction period is the result of a combination of factors, namely:

(a) A longer than anticipated design, construction and procurement period for the swing space, because of the move from the combined on-site and off-site swing space solution to an on-site only swing space solution;

(b) A longer than anticipated design period for the main works, which is mainly the result of a protracted change management effort, entailing discussions with tenants regarding the move from the current closed office space solution to the proposed open office space work environment and the implementation of flexible workplace strategies for Secretariat entities. The result is that start of construction has been pushed back from mid-2019 to the beginning of 2020.

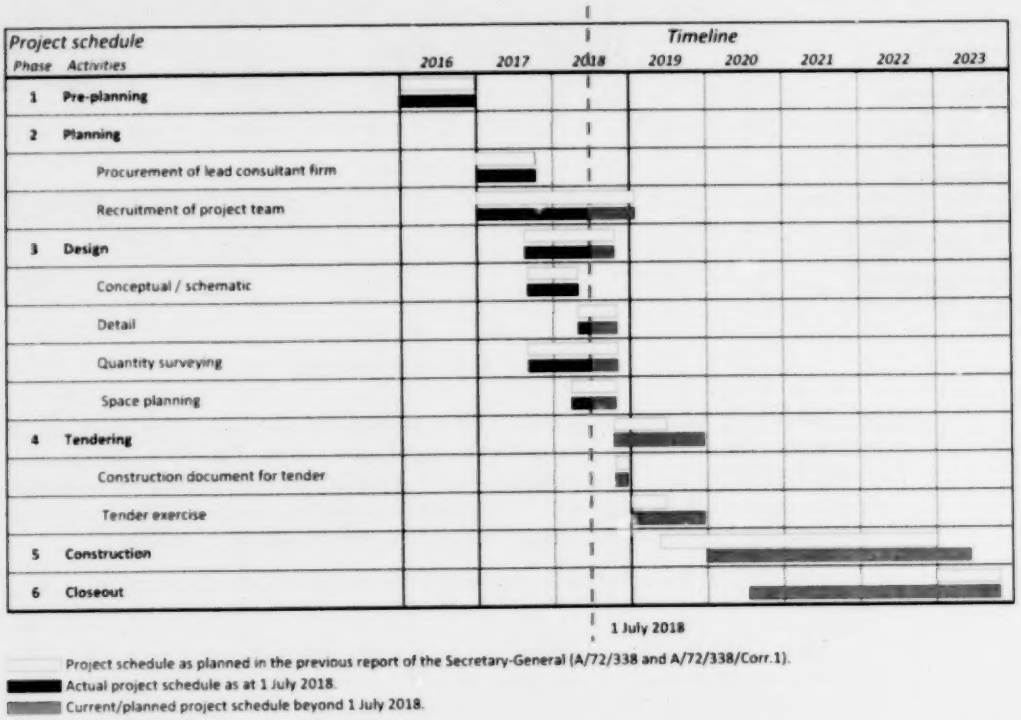
68. It should be noted, however, that the shift in schedule is not expected to result in additional project costs. The staffing requirements will not extend beyond the approved project duration period and the dedicated project management team will be tapered towards the end of the project, as will the level of effort required from the lead consulting firm.

69. It is also possible, even likely, that once the team starts implementing multiple phases of the project, and on the basis of lessons learned from previous phases, some phases could be implemented more quickly. Once the general contractor is brought on board, currently scheduled for January 2020, it will be possible to provide a more accurate projection of the possibility to complete construction earlier than currently scheduled.

70. In addition, the implementation of the open office space solution and flexible workplace strategies could result in an additional $475,200 in annual rental income based on a projected increase of 1,800 square metres of rental space in the ESCAP secretariat building. For these reasons, the secretariat considers that the additional

time taken to complete the project is worth the additional effort. An updated project schedule is shown in figure IV.

Figure IV
Project schedule as at 1 July 2018



H. Rental income

71. Rental income is primarily derived from rental of office space to United Nations agencies and other entities connected with the activities of the United Nations. Rent is based on current commercial values. The net rental amount is reported under income section 2 of the programme budget.

72. The rental charge for 2018–2019 is $264 per annum per square metre for United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and $279.60 for commercial tenants. To facilitate budgetary planning by tenants, in the first year of a biennium the rate to be applied in the subsequent biennium is assessed and tenants are informed. In April 2017, following the evaluation undertaken in 2016, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes were informed that the rate to be applied in 2018–2019 would remain at $264 per annum per square metre. The income from rental of premises in 2018–2019 is estimated at $7,014,554.

73. Table 2 below shows the estimated rental income per biennium during the proposed construction period and at the end of the project in 2024–2025, when space efficiency improvements will have provided additional space available for rent.

Table 2
Estimated rental income
(United States dollars)

	2018–2019	*2020–2021*	*2022–2023*	*2024–2025*
Rental rate (per annum per square metre)	264	To be evaluated in 2018	To be evaluated in 2020	To be evaluated in 2022
Rental income (based on current rental rate)	7 014 554	7 014 554	7 014 554	7 964 954[a]

Note: Projected rental income may change owing to changes in the area occupied while tenants are in swing space during construction.

[a] Includes an increase in income of $475,200 per year owing to space efficiency gains.

74. With the implementation of a new open office space solution throughout the secretariat building to achieve the project objective of 20 per cent space efficiency, at the end of the project in 2023, it is estimated that the secretariat will have at least 1,800 square metres of additional vacant space, equivalent to $475,200 in annual rental income based on the current rate of $264 per rentable square metre. Should the implementation of flexible workplace strategies during the project result in additional efficiencies (e.g. by accommodating the existing ESCAP secretariat staff within a smaller footprint), it may be possible to attract additional United Nations entities to the complex, resulting in further additional rental income.

III. Project accountability

75. In paragraph 13, section IV, of its resolution 71/272 A, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) with providing oversight of the project and to include information on key findings in the context of the annual reports of the Office on its activities.

76. In line with that resolution, OIOS conducted its second audit of the project in early 2018. An on-site mission to the ESCAP premises in Bangkok was conducted during the month of February 2018 and the report was published on 5 June 2018. The complete report (No. 2018/054) can be found on the OIOS website at www.oios.un.org.

77. OIOS concluded that ESCAP has made significant progress in the implementation of the project. This includes better coordination with the Office of Central Support Services, implementing initiatives to establish appropriate project management methodologies, recruiting the project manager and hiring the lead consulting firm to produce the technical design that will determine the direction of the entire project.

IV. Project expenditures and anticipated costs

A. Status of expenditure and projected expenditures for 2018

78. In resolution 71/272 A (sect. IV, para. 21), the General Assembly approved an appropriation of $877,400 for the project for 2017, comprising $505,600 under section 19, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, and $371,800 under section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance.

79. In resolution 72/262 A (sect. XIII, para. 15), the General Assembly approved an appropriation of $4,057,200 for the project for 2018, comprising $615,000 under

section 19, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, and $3,422,200 under section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance.

80. The approved funding for 2017 and 2018 therefore amounts to $4,934,600. The actual expenditures as at 30 June 2018 amount to $1,871,100, and the projected expenditures for the remainder of 2018 amount to $1,901,100, as detailed in table 3.

Table 3
Status of expenditure as at 30 June 2018 and projection for the remainder of 2018

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	Appropriated project funding for the period 2017–2018	*Cumulative expenditure from project start up to 30 June 2018*	*Projected expenditures from 1 July to 31 December 2018*	*Total projected expenditures for 2017–2018*	*Projected unused balance at the end of 2018*
	(a)	*(b)*	*(c)*	*(d) = (b) + (c)*	*(e) = (a)-(d)*
Section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance					
1. Construction costs	2 139.0	–	240.0	240.0	1 899.0
2. Professional services	1 056.8	1 034.8	929.1	1 963.9	(907.1)
3. Escalation	251.4	–	4.6	4.6	246.8
4. Contingency	366.8	–	333.0	333.0	33.8
Subtotal section 33	**3 814.0**	**1 034.8**	**1 506.7**	**2 541.5**	**1 272.5**
Section 19, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific					
5. Project management	1 120.6	836.3	394.4	1 230.7	(110.1)
Total	**4 934.6**	**1 871.1**	**1 901.1**	**3 772.2**	**1 162.4**

81. As shown in table 3, there is expected to be a balance of $1,162,400 remaining unused at the end of 2018, mainly attributable to the following factors:

(a) An unused balance of $1,899,000 under construction costs. Owing to the revised implementation and swing space strategy, the construction of swing space will not begin until 2019, therefore only $240,000 of the $2,139,000 appropriated for swing space construction in 2018 is expected to be used during 2018. This will fund early works related to preparation of the on-site swing space in 2018. The unspent balance of $1,899,000 under swing space costs would still be needed and be used towards the funding needed for the on-site swing space construction in 2019;

(b) Overexpenditure of $907,100 under professional services, attributable mainly to the contract for the lead consulting firm, signed in October 2017, which exceeds the estimated costs as reported in the previous progress report of the Secretary-General;

(c) An unspent balance under escalation in the amount of $246,800. The escalation provision for 2018 will mostly not be spent in 2018 based on the recalculation of project escalation costs which adopted January 2018 (instead of July 2017) as the baseline, because of the change in the construction start date and related construction cost expenditure over the duration of the project;

(d) A projected increase of $110,100 under project management costs related mainly to the onboarding costs of the project staff and the official travel of team members in 2017.

B. Resource requirements in 2019

82. The resource requirements for 2019 are shown in table 4. The total projected expenditure for 2019 amounts to $5,646,900, comprising:

(a) $955,400 under section 19, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, for the project management team. This will provide for the continuation of the existing project team positions (1 P-5, 1 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 National Officer and 1 Local level), 50 per cent of the cost of one Project Coordinator (P-4) at Headquarters, cost-shared with the Africa Hall renovation project at ECA, as well as two new positions proposed to be established effective 1 January 2019. With the change in the construction methodology, which will now require swing space to be constructed onsite during 2019, the services of one on-site Information Technology Assistant (Local level) for swing space would be needed as of January 2019, to support the IT infrastructure design works related to on-site swing space construction. In addition, as previously planned, one Logistics and Coordination Officer (National Officer) would be needed as of January 2019 for the planning, oversight and management of the on-site swing space accommodation;

(b) $4,691,500 under section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, for swing space construction costs, professional services, escalation and contingency. In accordance with the request of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions during its review of the previous progress report on this project (A/72/7/Add.6, para. 22), the escalation and contingency costs have been separated from the base costs throughout the present report.

Table 4
Resource requirements in 2019
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	Projected expenditures in 2019	*Projected unused balance at the end of 2018*	*Net funding requirement in 2019*
	(a)	*(b)*	*(c)=(a)-(b)*
Section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance			
1. Construction costs	3 768.0	1 899.0	1 869.0
2. Professional services	229.3	(907.1)	1 136.4
3. Escalation	267.7	246.8	20.9
4. Contingency	426.5	33.8	392.7
Subtotal section 33	**4 691.5**	**1 272.5**	**3 419.0**
Section 19, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific			
5. Project management	955.4	(110.1)	1 065.5
Total	**5 646.9**	**1 162.4**	**4 484.5**

83. Taking into account the projected unused balance of $1,162,400 at the end of 2018, the net funding requirements in 2019 would amount to $4,484,500, comprising: (a) $1,065,500 under section 19, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific; and (b) $3,419,000 under section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

V. Next steps

84. Among the actions to be undertaken during the next reporting period are:

(a) Continue recruitment of the remaining members of the dedicated project management team;

(b) Finalize the designs by the lead consulting firm for both swing space and main construction, including producing tender documents for the main works so that works can commence in early 2020;

(c) Finalize construction of the temporary swing space and move occupants in preparation for the first phase of the construction;

(d) Complete the design, construction and occupancy of the flexible workplace strategies pilot floor;

(e) Continue the change management process with ESCAP staff and with tenants;

(f) Continue to manage the project risks, using both independent and integrated risk strategies, and update the Monte Carlo model based on updated project progress, with the aim of increasing the likelihood of completing the project within budget;

(g) Continue future office space planning and conduct outreach to attract additional tenants to the ESCAP premises.

VI. Recommended actions to be taken by the General Assembly

85. The General Assembly is requested to:

(a) **Take note of the progress made since the issuance of the previous report of the Secretary-General;**

(b) **Take note of the revised cost plan for the project;**

(c) **Approve the establishment of two temporary positions (one National Officer and one Local level), effective 1 January 2019, in the project support team, under Section 19, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019;**

(d) **Appropriate a net amount of $4,484,500 for project activities in 2019, comprising $1,065,500 under section 19, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, and $3,419,000 under section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, which would represent a charge against the contingency fund.**

Annex

Revised cost plan

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance								
1. Construction costs								
1.1 Building costs	–	–	–	4 885.7	7 141.5	5 297.3	3 033.5	20 358.0
1.2 Swing space costs[a]	–	240.0	3 578.0	100.0	100.0	125.0	125.0	4 268.0
1.3 Physical security system[b]	–	-	190.0	–	–	–	–	190.0
Subtotal, construction costs	**–**	**240.0**	**3 768.0**	**4 985.7**	**7 241.5**	**5 422.3**	**3 158.5**	**24 816.0**
2. Professional services								
2.1 Lead consultancy firm[c]	201.8	1 365.9	39.3	228.9	228.9	228.9	228.9	2 522.8
2.2 Seismic design	134.4	–	–	–	–	–	–	134.4
2.3 Risk management	–	51.0	51.0	39.0	74.6	17.6	–	233.2
2.4 Other services	125.8	84.9	139.0	–	–	–	–	349.7
Subtotal, professional services	**462.0**	**1 501.8**	**229.3**	**267.9**	**303.5**	**246.5**	**228.9**	**3 240.2**
3. Escalation[d]	–	4.6	267.7	567.8	1 147.4	1 110.4	791.3	3 889.1
4. Contingency	–	333.0	426.5	582.1	869.2	677.9	305.7	3 194.5
Subtotal section 33	**462.0**	**2 079.4**	**4 691.5**	**6 403.6**	**9 561.7**	**7 457.2**	**4 484.4**	**35 139.7**
Section 19, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific								
5. Project management								
5.1 Dedicated project management and support team	474.8	623.5	851.0	843.0	800.0	613.0	232.0	4 437.2
5.2 Dedicated coordinator at Headquarters (cost shared with Economic Commission for Africa)	14.2	90.8	90.8	90.8	90.8	26.4	–	403.8
5.3 Travel of project management team	24.7	–	13.6	–	–	–	–	38.3
Subtotal section 19	**513.7**	**714.3**	**955.4**	**933.8**	**890.8**	**639.4**	**232.0**	**4 879.3**
Total	**975.7**	**2 793.6**	**5 646.9**	**7 337.4**	**10 452.5**	**8 096.6**	**4 716.4**	**40 019.0**

[a] As a result of the revised swing space strategy, offsite swing space costs have been moved to onsite swing space costs.

[b] Funds initially budgeted for off-site swing space have been moved to the physical security system required for the onsite swing space.

[c] Lead consulting firm contract was signed in October 2017 with a contract value of approximately $2.5 million.

[d] Escalation calculated at 4 per cent per annum, compounded. Escalation was recalculated using January 2018 as the baseline, to reflect the revised distribution of construction costs resulting from the revised construction start date.

United Nations A/73/328–S/2018/592

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
17 August 2018

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-third session
Agenda item 129 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), (o), (p), (q), (r), (s), (t), (u), (v), (w), (x), (y) and (z) of the provisional agenda*

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations:

Cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe

Security Council
Seventy-third year

* A/73/150.

18-13620 (E) 190918

Please recycle

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Community of Central African States

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development — GUAM

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States

Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration

Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations remains essential to maintaining international peace and security, upholding human rights and achieving sustainable development. The present consolidated report, prepared in accordance with paragraph 4 (l) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316, responds to a number of Assembly resolutions on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations. The report is also being submitted to the Security Council, pursuant to Council resolution 1809 (2008) and the presidential statement of 6 August 2013 (S/PRST/2013/12). It covers the

period since the issuance of the previous report on 15 July 2016 (A/71/160-S/2016/621).

The activities and achievements described herein demonstrate the enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations in many areas of mutual interest, including through regular consultations and coordinated actions at both the strategic and operational levels. As observed in the report, there are still opportunities for even closer cooperation, in particular in the field.

The United Nations will continue to deepen existing cooperation arrangements and explore opportunities to create new ones, as appropriate, with relevant regional and other organizations to better advance the vision set out in the Charter of the United Nations, in the interest of the peoples our organizations are collectively mandated to serve.

I. Introduction

1. The present report is being submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolutions on cooperation between the United Nations and specific regional and other organizations, adopted at the seventy-first and seventy-second sessions of the Assembly, in which it requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of those resolutions during the seventy-third session.

2. The Security Council, in its resolution 1809 (2008), requested the Secretary-General to include, in his regular reporting to the Council, assessments of progress on the cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional organizations. Furthermore, in its presidential statement of 6 August 2013 (S/PRST/2013/12), the Security Council requested the Secretary-General, in his next biennial report to the Council and the General Assembly on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations, to include recommendations on ways to enhance cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional and subregional organizations and arrangements. The present report is, therefore, also being submitted to the Security Council.

3. The present consolidated report, prepared in accordance with paragraph 4 (l) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316, covers the period since the issuance of the previous such report on 15 July 2016 (A/71/160-S/2016/621). It describes some of the main activities and achievements in implementing the relevant General Assembly resolutions and highlights areas for enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations. In a world in which the challenges we face are complex, multidimensional and unpredictable, multilateral collaboration, or "network multilateralism", across our organizations takes on renewed importance and offers a range of opportunities.

II. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

African Union

4. Reflecting the high priority placed by both organizations on their relationship, the United Nations and the African Union have enhanced their collaboration on numerous fronts, including through more regular exchanges of information, consultations and coordinated action. The first United Nations-African Union Annual Conference, a consultative mechanism convening the heads of the respective secretariats, was held on 19 April 2017 at United Nations Headquarters, in New York. The second Annual Conference was held on 9 July 2018 at the headquarters of the African Union, in Addis Ababa. In addition, I attended the twenty-eighth and thirtieth ordinary sessions of the African Union Assembly, held in Addis Ababa in January 2017 and January 2018, respectively, while the Deputy Secretary-General attended the twenty-ninth and thirty-first sessions, held in July 2017 in Addis Ababa and in July 2018 in Nouakchott, respectively. The Chairperson of the African Union Commission also participated in my high-level interactive dialogue with heads of regional and other organizations, a biennial consultation on key strategic issues in the realm of peace and security, which was held in June 2018 in New York.

5. The Chairperson and I have prioritized the development of a systemic and strategic partnership that is based on the principles of mutual respect and solidarity, having signed and started the implementation of two framework agreements to further institutionalize and strengthen cooperation: the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, signed in April 2017;

and the African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, signed in January 2018. Those frameworks aim at fostering stronger cooperation and coordination between our organizations.

6. In the context of United Nations support for the Framework for a Renewed United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda 2017–2027, the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa has reinforced its advocacy and policy advisory activities at the global level to mobilize support for Africa's strategic priorities. In October 2017, during the annual Africa Week, the United Nations system partnered with African regional and subregional organizations to hold a series of high-level advocacy events on the theme "Supporting an integrated, prosperous, people-centred and peaceful Africa: Towards the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

7. More broadly, the United Nations system has continued its efforts to provide resources to support the implementation of the Framework. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has provided multifaceted support to several African Union-led initiatives and activities, including the annual high-level dialogue on democracy, human rights and governance in Africa and the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa. UNDP has also supported African Union efforts to strengthen its mechanisms and structures, in particular the African Peer Review Mechanism, through the formulation and validation of the strategic plan of the Mechanism for the period 2016–2020, and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and its governing bodies, through the provision of a senior economist and policy support.

8. The United Nations system and the African Union have continued to work together to advance their common priority of achieving gender equality and women's empowerment. In June 2017, UN-Women, the African Union Commission and the Government of Germany launched the African Women Leaders Network, which is to serve as a platform for enhancing the leadership of women in the transformation of Africa, with a focus on governance, peace and stability. At the summit of the African Union held in Nouakchott in 2018, the Network launched the African Women Leaders Fund to support women-led initiatives and entrepreneurs across the continent. The United Nations, under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary-General, in conjunction with the African Union, conducted two joint high-level missions to Africa, in July 2017 and July 2018, that were focused on women in peace, security and development. Both missions were followed by joint briefings to the Security Council.

9. The work of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa have contributed to enhanced support, synergy, coordination and coherence among stakeholders in respect of African priorities. The Mechanism has played a key supporting role in recent African Union achievements such as the adoption of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment and its draft implementation road map in January 2018; the launch of the Single African Air Transport Market in January 2018; and the signing of an agreement on the African Continental Free Trade Area in March 2018. The Mechanism has also supported African Union initiatives to finance its own programmes, in particular the institution of 0.2 per cent levy on goods imported from outside the continent. The nineteenth session of the Mechanism, held in Addis Ababa on 12 and 13 May 2018, was an opportunity to engage in strategic discussions on ways to support the African Union in its fight against corruption.

10. ECA, as the secretariat of the Mechanism, has also collaborated with the African Development Bank and the African Union Commission to advance sectoral blueprints

for the African Union such as the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, the Africa Mining Vision and the Action Plan for Accelerated Industrial Development in Africa, among others.

11. With regard to peace and security priorities, the United Nations and the African Union have intensified their cooperation, as reflected in my annual reports to the Security Council on strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa, including the work of the United Nations Office to the African Union (S/2016/780, S/2017/744 and S/2018/678).

12. Improving social conditions is an important component of our cooperation within the Framework for a Renewed United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda 2017–2027. In one example, following the adoption of the African Union Road Map on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth, in January 2017, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) provided technical support to 41 States members of the African Union in the implementation of the Road Map. UNFPA has provided similar support in the revision of key policy documents on sexual and reproductive rights, namely the Maputo Plan of Action for the Operationalization of the Continental Policy Framework for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights 2016–2030, and the Africa Health Strategy 2016–2030. The African Union campaign to end child marriage has also received technical and financial support from UNFPA.

13. The United Nations has continued to support the efforts of the African Union with regard to human rights. On 24 April 2018, at the headquarters of the African Union, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights co-chaired the first African Union-United Nations high-level dialogue on human rights, at which agreement was reached on, inter alia, cooperation to establish a human rights compliance framework for African Union peace support operations and a joint African Union-United Nations framework on human rights and accountability.

Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization

14. The United Nations has continued to cooperate with the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization on issues of mutual interest, including through the regular engagement of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs. The Secretary-General of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization has continued to participate in the meetings of the Sixth Committee held in October during International Law Week, when legal advisers from Member State capitals discuss the work of the International Law Commission, among other things. He also visited Geneva in July 2017 and exchanged views with members of the International Law Commission. The Office of the Permanent Observer for the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization to the United Nations has regularly organized seminars and informal meetings to share views with representatives of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders on subjects of international law.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations

15. The United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have taken significant steps to formalize institutional cooperation, in particular with the adoption in September 2016 of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast

Asian Nations and the United Nations (2016–2020), and the ASEAN-United Nations Environment and Climate Change Action Plan (2016–2020) in September 2017. While participating in the thirty-first ASEAN summit, held in November 2017 in Manila, I engaged in constructive discussions with leaders from ASEAN member States on regional and international issues and on ways to improve the coordination of our collective actions. During the ninth iteration of the ASEAN-United Nations summit, also held in Manila in November 2017, as well as at a meeting between the United Nations and the ASEAN Committee of Permanent Representatives, held in Jakarta in April 2018, the two organizations reviewed the progress made and agreed on a way forward to achieve closer cooperation.

16. Practical cooperation has been facilitated through the activities of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and other entities of the United Nations system, and by the presence of a United Nations liaison officer to ASEAN in Jakarta. ESCAP has continued to work closely with ASEAN to overcome barriers to economic integration through the facilitation of trade, transport and information and communications infrastructure.

17. Since 2012, the annual ASEAN-United Nations regional dialogues have created further space to share experiences and best practices in addressing our common peace and security challenges. In December 2017, the regional dialogue held in Kuala Lumpur focused on the role of women in the prevention of violent extremism.

18. ASEAN member States have continued to be important partners and major contributors to United Nations peacekeeping activities. The United Nations participated in an ASEAN regional forum workshop on peacekeeping, held in Hanoi on 19 December 2017. During the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus Experts' Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, held in April 2018 in Bali, Indonesia, the United Nations announced the expansion of a triangular partnership project to the ASEAN region, effective late 2018. Initially implemented in Africa, the project provides training to troop-contributing countries in areas such as engineering that are critical to enabling capabilities.

19. The United Nations has continued to support the efforts of ASEAN with respect to disarmament, counter-terrorism, preventing violent extremism and cross-border security issues. In that regard, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism have organized regional workshops and capacity-building activities and helped to coordinate the sharing of experiences and good practices. In September 2017, the Regional Centre organized a workshop to discuss synergies between the region's efforts to implement Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention.

20. Furthermore, ESCAP, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and UNDP have cooperated closely with the ASEAN secretariat and member States to support their efforts to prevent and address challenges related to climate change and disaster risk reduction, management and recovery, including through the implementation of the ASEAN-United Nations Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management, and the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, which is based on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

21. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) has continued its long-standing collaboration with the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization across the

entire spectrum of its work in transport. They have also cooperated on trade facilitation, including through technical assistance, capacity-building activities and meetings of experts. ECE has assisted the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization in developing its regional trade facilitation strategy, which is near completion.

22. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has worked closely with the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization in developing and implementing plans to strengthen the agrifood trade, following a letter of agreement signed in December 2017. They have also worked to establish a regional cooperation centre for sustainable food systems, as proposed in a joint declaration by the Ministers of Agriculture of States members of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, which was adopted at their meeting in May 2017 in Istanbul, Turkey.

23. The United Nations has also reinforced its engagement with the secretariat of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and its member States with respect to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including through intergovernmental mechanisms such as the regional forum on sustainable development and the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

Caribbean Community

24. In May 2018, I attended the opening of the thirty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in Havana, which provided an opportunity to engage in constructive discussions with ministers and other senior officials from the secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and member States. Prior to that, representatives of the United Nations system and CARICOM held their ninth general meeting, at United Nations Headquarters in July 2017. Subsequently, in June 2018, the Secretary-General of CARICOM participated in my high-level interactive dialogue with heads of regional and other organizations.

25. Following a request from the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security, the United Nations provided advisory and technical assistance for the design and development of the CARICOM counter-terrorism strategy that was adopted in February 2018. Similarly, UNDP has been providing similar guidance and technical support for the review of the CARICOM crime and security strategy. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean has been providing legal and policy assistance to States in the Caribbean in the implementation of international instruments relating to conventional arms and weapons of mass destruction. In December 2016, the Regional Centre partnered with the Implementation Agency in organizing the first Caribbean regional encounter on forensic ballistics, in Port of Spain.

26. Other areas of cooperation include climate change, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. My visit to Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica in October 2017 provided an opportunity to witness the devastation wrought by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in the Caribbean. UNDP and CARICOM convened a high-level pledging conference in November 2017 at United Nations Headquarters aimed at mobilizing international financing and technical support for reconstruction and building resilience in affected countries. Over $1.3 billion in pledges and over $1 billion in loans and debt relief were secured on that occasion. As a follow-up to the conference, UNDP, in partnership with the CARICOM secretariat, has been developing a regional resilience framework that will help to facilitate the integration of public and private sector initiatives to support the vision of CARICOM leaders to make the Caribbean the first climate resilient region in the world. The World Food Programme (WFP) and

the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction have worked closely with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency in the implementation of its Regional Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy and Programming Framework (2014–2024), including through capacity-building activities and developing the national disaster risk reduction capacities of member States in line with the Sendai Framework. FAO has also supported CARICOM in the implementation of its regional food and nutrition strategy.

Central European Initiative

27. The Economic Commission for Europe has worked closely with the Central European Initiative on advanced biofuels in the context of a bio-based economy, with the support of the Central European Initiative Cooperation Fund and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission.

28. Furthermore, UNDP and the Central European Initiative collaborated through regular information exchanges from 2016 to 2017 on projects that focused on the resilience of municipalities with respect to migration.

Collective Security Treaty Organization

29. The United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization have engaged in regular information exchanges, visits, participation in conferences and training exercises. In May 2017 and January 2018, staff of the Department of Political Affairs held consultations in Moscow with their counterparts in the secretariat of the Collective Security Treaty Organization to discuss issues related to conflict prevention and resolution and opportunities to enhance cooperation. Subsequently, in June 2018, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, represented by its Deputy Secretary-General, participated in my high-level interactive dialogue with heads of regional and other organizations.

30. My Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia has maintained contact with the Secretary-General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization to discuss and coordinate preventive efforts in Central Asia. The United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization have also regularly interacted to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia, including through capacity-building workshops.

31. Peacekeeping is another important area of cooperation. A visit to Moscow by the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support in July 2017 provided an opportunity to discuss ways to deepen that cooperation. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations has engaged with the Collective Security Treaty Organization on training opportunities, following a request made by the Collective Security Treaty Organization after its participation in a workshop for chiefs of police held at United Nations Headquarters in June 2016.

32. Meanwhile, UNODC has cooperated with the Collective Security Treaty Organization within the "Networking the Networks" initiative to promote operational cooperation between regional and international law enforcement organizations to facilitate the exchange of criminal intelligence and to support multilateral operations targeting all forms of organized crime, including drug trafficking.

Commonwealth of Independent States

33. During consultations held in Moscow in May 2017 and January 2018, the Department of Political Affairs engaged in constructive discussions with the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), including the Executive Secretary, on peace and security issues in the Eurasian region and opportunities for further cooperation and coordination. In June 2018, the Deputy Executive Secretary of CIS participated in my high-level interactive dialogue with heads of regional and other organizations.

34. My Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia has maintained regular contact with the Executive Secretary of CIS to exchange views and coordinate preventive efforts in Central Asia. The United Nations and CIS have also cooperated through regional workshops and projects in support of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia.

35. Furthermore, UNODC has cooperated with CIS under the framework of the protocol signed in July 2005 with the Executive Committee of CIS on the exchange of information and cooperation in areas related to drug control, crime prevention and international terrorism in the context of sustainable development and human security.

Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries

36. The United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries have continued to work closely to support efforts to resolve the political crisis and sustain peace in Guinea-Bissau. My Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau has maintained regular contact with the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and other multilateral partners to ensure the mobilization, harmonization and coordination of international assistance to Guinea-Bissau.

37. In addition, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has cooperated with the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, mainly in the areas of natural, social and human sciences, including through research, joint activities and the development of tools for teachers. In March 2018, during the eighth World Water Forum in Brasilia, the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme organized a side event that provided an opportunity to engage with experts from the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture on the need to build bridges and align actions relating to research, education and capacity-building with the 2030 Agenda.

38. The United Nations University (UNU) Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance, a think tank dedicated to electronic governance, as part of its efforts to support the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries in the area of digital governance, hosted a technical meeting in June 2017 in Guimarães, Portugal, that focused on the digital agenda of the Community. The Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance has also supported the University of Minho in implementing a project to improve electronic public services in Timor-Leste and in the African States members of the Community.

39. The United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries have further cooperated in strengthening multilingualism and respect for language diversity. Each year, the United Nations hosts a celebration of Portuguese Language

and Culture Day. On 5 May 2018, the Executive Secretary of the Community joined me for the celebration held at United Nations Headquarters.

Council of Europe

40. The United Nations has engaged in regular consultations with the Council of Europe. In May 2017, I visited Strasbourg, France, and met with the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe to discuss a broad range of issues, including conflict prevention, migration, combating corruption and counter-terrorism. At the working level, staff of the Department of Political Affairs held talks with their counterparts in the secretariat and other organs of the Council of Europe in October 2017 in Strasbourg.

41. The United Nations and the Council of Europe have also reinforced their cooperation in the areas of human rights and refugee law. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Council of Europe continue to hold annual coordination meetings to share experiences and best practices and to identify areas for closer cooperation. During their tenth coordination meeting, held in Geneva on 13 and 14 June 2018, participants discussed freedom of expression in the digital age and the role of human rights defenders.

42. In addition, the Council of Europe and its organs, especially the European Court of Human Rights, have cooperated with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on asylum cases, including in the joint training of judges, lawyers, asylum decision makers and staff of national non-governmental organizations. In March 2018, with the support of UNHCR, the Council of Europe launched a new phase (2018–2020) of the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees, which facilitates the integration of refugees into European societies through education and employment.

43. The Council of Europe remains an important partner in advancing children's rights, in close cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). In March 2018, the UNICEF Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia/Special Coordinator for the Refugee and Migrant Response in Europe visited the headquarters of the Council of Europe to discuss ways to enhance that cooperation, among other things.

44. The Council of Europe continues to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and has signalled its commitment to indicating links, where relevant, between its programme of activities and budget for the biennium 2018–2019 and specific Sustainable Development Goals.

Economic Community of Central African States

45. The United Nations has engaged in regular consultations and held joint activities with the secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and its member States to address regional peace and security issues, as reflected in my reports to the Security Council on the situation in Central Africa and the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA). That collaboration has included engagement in preventive diplomacy, early warning, mediation and gender mainstreaming activities. The Secretary-General of ECCAS also participated in my high-level interactive dialogue with heads of regional and other organizations in June 2018.

46. UNESCO, UNFPA, UNOCA and UN-Women collaborated with ECCAS on youth empowerment and participation in Central Africa. From 30 November to

2 December 2017 in Libreville, the Government of Gabon, ECCAS, UNOCA, the International Organization of la Francophonie and UNESCO jointly organized a Pan-African youth forum for a culture of peace and the fight against radicalization and work towards the creation of an early warning system in Central Africa. Participants adopted a declaration expressing their commitment to fighting radicalization and promoting a culture of peace and made recommendations to member States and multilateral partners.

Economic Cooperation Organization

47. The United Nations Forum on Forests and the secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization jointly organized a meeting of experts in September 2016 at the headquarters of the Economic Cooperation Organization in Tehran to explore ways to enhance the involvement of regional and subregional entities in international arrangement on forests. The United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, adopted by the General Assembly in April 2017, reflects the participants' main proposals.

48. The United Nations system continues to support the efforts of the Economic Cooperation Organization in respect of disaster risk reduction, with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction supporting the preparation of a regional framework in that regard for the Economic Cooperation Organization that is aligned with the Sendai Framework. In addition, the two entities worked together closely on preparations of the second Subregional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction for Central Asia and South Caucasus, held in June 2018 in Yerevan on the theme "An integrated platform for sustainable development and building resilience".

49. ESCAP has worked closely with the Economic Cooperation Organization on transport connectivity, including through the project "Strengthening Transport Connectivity in Southern and Central Asia", for which ESCAP helped to develop a proposal to extend the Istanbul-Teheran-Islamabad corridor to the Delhi-Kolkata-Dhaka corridor. In February 2018, the secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization participated in a related regional policy dialogue convened by ESCAP in Bangkok.

International Criminal Police Organization

50. The United Nations and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) continue to engage in regular consultations. I met with the Secretary-General of INTERPOL in February 2018 in New York to discuss opportunities to further deepen our cooperation. In June 2018, the Executive Director of UNODC visited INTERPOL headquarters in Lyon, France, and discussed with the Secretary-General the enhancement of cooperation in support of efforts by member States to counter threats related to transnational crime and terrorism.

51. At the operational level, INTERPOL is an important partner in countering terrorism, recovering stolen cultural heritage items and reinforcing the capacity of law enforcement institutions to prevent and counter transnational crimes. For example, since May 2016, UNODC and INTERPOL have worked together closely to build the capacity of States to counter transnational criminal activities and share information with regional counterparts. UNESCO and UNODC participate in the INTERPOL Expert Group on Stolen Cultural Property and have developed joint initiatives with member States, in particular in conflict contexts.

52. INTERPOL has also contributed to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including through its membership in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and has held joint activities with United Nations entities on the prevention of terrorism, including through the development and delivery of online learning modules and support for the expansion of the INTERPOL I-24/7 global police communications system in Asia.

International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea

53. The adoption of General Assembly resolution 72/273 on 12 April 2018, the first-ever resolution on cooperation between the United Nations and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, created a new framework for further engagement between our two organizations.

54. Various United Nations entities are currently working with the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, its subsidiary bodies and its member States on a range of issues. The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia engages with the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea in the areas of environmental protection and water resources management, as well as data collection and dissemination and early warning, in line with a memorandum of understanding signed in March 2010. In addition, the two entities cooperate in providing support for the ongoing work of national experts in developing a comprehensive regional water strategy for Central Asia.

55. In September 2016, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA and the United Nations Volunteers, on the basis of a 2012–2016 joint programme, launched a second joint programme, for the period 2016–2019, to build the resilience of communities affected by the Aral Sea disaster, in partnership with regional, national and local stakeholders.

International Organization for Migration

56. As requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/296, in which it approved the draft Agreement concerning the Relationship between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director General of IOM signed the Agreement on 19 September 2016 during the United Nations summit to address large movements of refugees and migrants. As a result, IOM joined the United Nations system as a related organization. IOM is working closely with other United Nations system entities in implementing the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, which reached a critical milestone with the conclusion of intergovernmental negotiations in July 2018 on the draft text of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

57. The above-mentioned cooperation has been reinforced in the field. For example, in a number of peace operations, including in the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Somalia, IOM has been a key implementing partner in the areas of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and community violence reduction.

International Organization of la Francophonie

58. In keeping with efforts to enhance consultation and coordination with the International Organization of la Francophonie (IOF), I met with its Secretary-General in March 2017 and March 2018 in New York to discuss political and security developments in francophone countries and cooperation between the United Nations and IOF. I also met with the Group of Francophone Ambassadors in New York in

March 2018 to discuss multilingualism in the context of ongoing reform efforts at the United Nations. Subsequently, in June 2018, the Secretary-General of IOF participated in my high-level interactive dialogue with heads of regional and other organizations.

59. The United Nations and IOF have coordinated preventive diplomacy and mediation efforts in several francophone countries, including the Central African Republic, Chad, Gabon and Guinea, and cooperated on electoral assistance in Benin, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea and Madagascar.

60. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support continue to work closely with IOF to support initiatives aimed at increasing contributions of francophone troops and personnel to peacekeeping. Recent activities include the third senior female police officer command development course, held in Dakar in May 2018, in partnership with the African Union, the Government of Senegal and IOF. In addition, in June 2018, the Department of Field Support, together with the United Nations Coordinator for Multilingualism, partnered with IOF in an outreach exercise to highlight the benefits of multilingualism in the field and career opportunities for Arabic, French and Spanish speakers.

61. The Coordinator for Multilingualism and the network of multilingualism focal points have collaborated with IOF to promote multilingualism throughout the work and operations of the United Nations Secretariat, including through the holding of an interactive discussion on multilingualism on French Language Day at United Nations Headquarters in 2017.

62. The United Nations has also continued cooperation with IOF on youth participation and empowerment, including during the annual Youth Forum of the Economic and Social Council and as part of an initiative to prevent violent extremism through education.

Latin American and Caribbean Economic System

63. The Latin American and Caribbean Economic System and ECLAC signed a framework agreement in October 2017 to reinforce their technical and institutional cooperation mainly in the areas of infrastructure development, transport and logistics services. Pursuant to that agreement, the two entities organized joint seminars to promote regional integration and economic and social development. Enhanced cooperation also continued under the framework of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Furthermore, the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System cooperated with several United Nations entities to support Member States in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda in the region. The Latin American and Caribbean Economic System is also an important partner in the implementation of the Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 in the Americas, including through the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas.

League of Arab States

64. In March 2017, I participated in a summit of the League of Arab States in Amman, where I engaged in constructive discussions with leaders on ways to address common challenges and to enhance our partnership. I was able to continue those discussions with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States during my high-level interactive dialogue with heads of regional and other organizations in June 2018. The United Nations and the League of Arab States held their fourteenth general

cooperation meeting in Geneva in July 2018 to review progress made and the way forward for closer cooperation.

65. The United Nations has continued its efforts to open a liaison office to the League of Arab States in Cairo, in consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt, following the signature of the protocol of amendment of the text of the cooperation agreement between the United Nations and the League of Arab States in September 2016 by the Secretaries-General of both institutions.

66. At the operational level, the United Nations has supported efforts by the League of Arab States to strengthen its capacities in relation to conflict prevention, management, mediation and negotiation and peacekeeping. In January 2018, the League of Arab States invited the United Nations Secretariat, UNDP and the European Union to conduct informal consultations with a view to strengthening its operational capabilities. The League of Arab States has also been an important partner in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

67. The United Nations and the League of Arab States has continued to maintain close contacts with respect to country- and region-specific situations, including in Libya, Somalia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, and the question of Palestine. In Libya, for instance, my Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) has worked closely with the League of Arab States and the other members of the Quartet (i.e., the African Union and the European Union) to coordinate efforts in support of the political process. In April 2018, the Quartet met in Cairo to review developments in the overall political and security situation in Libya since their last meeting in September 2017 in New York, and to further coordinate their efforts in that regard.

68. The United Nations and the League of Arab States have also enhanced their cooperation on water-related issues. In October 2017, the organizations and their specialized agencies held their thirteenth sectoral meeting at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo to address the preservation and management of water resources in the Arab region.

69. OHCHR has continued to strengthen its cooperation with the Arab Human Rights Committee, including through consultations, joint activities and the OHCHR fellowship programme for staff of regional human rights mechanisms. In April 2017, OHCHR and the Arab Human Rights Committee organized a consultative meeting in Cairo on an Arab human rights strategy.

70. Similarly, there has been growing cooperation in the area of conflict-related sexual violence, following the signing in March 2016 of a memorandum of understanding between the League of Arab States and the United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. Pursuant to that agreement, the League of Arab States, UNDP, UN-Women and the Office hosted a meeting in March 2018 in Cairo to discuss legislative and policy progress and best practices and to identify additional areas for possible reform.

71. The League of Arab States has been an important partner in addressing global refugee and migration challenges. In September 2017, UNHCR and the League of Arab States signed a memorandum of understanding to enhance their cooperation and engage in joint efforts to implement the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. As part of the 10-year campaign to end statelessness, UNHCR and the League of Arab States organized a ministerial conference in Tunis in February 2018 on the theme "Belonging and legal identity" under the patronage of the President of Tunisia.

72. The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations has also worked closely with the League of Arab States, including through support for the Alliance's fellowship

programme and the implementation of the Unified Arab Strategic Plan for Alliance of Civilizations (2016–2019).

Organization for Democracy and Economic Development — GUAM

73. In February 2017, the Department of Political Affairs held consultations with the Secretary-General of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development — GUAM in New York, which focused, inter alia, on ongoing regional integration, democratic strengthening and mediation efforts in the European region, and opportunities for enhancing cooperation between the two organizations in the areas of early warning and conflict prevention.

74. The United Nations has also continued to engage with States members of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development — GUAM and other relevant stakeholders to find sustainable solutions to the crises affecting the region. In July 2017, I travelled to Kyiv to discuss the situation in Ukraine with national authorities.

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

75. The United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) have engaged in regular consultations to discuss issues related to peace and security. In June 2018, the Secretary-General of OSCE participated in my high-level interactive dialogue with heads of regional and other organizations. My Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia has regularly briefed OSCE heads of missions in Central Asia on the situation in the region.

76. The United Nations liaison office to OSCE in Vienna, which represents the Departments of Political Affairs, Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support, contributed to enhanced cooperation on peace and security matters, including with regard to country-specific and regional situations in the South Caucasus (through the Geneva international discussions on Georgia), the western Balkans, Moldova and Ukraine. Meanwhile, the United Nations Office for Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia have continued to involve OSCE in efforts to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia.

77. In September 2017, the Department of Field Support and the OSCE secretariat signed letters of understanding establishing formal collaborative arrangements in the areas of procurement, training and geospatial information systems.

Organization of American States

78. The Department of Political Affairs and the secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) held their eighth "desk-to-desk" meeting in January 2017 at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C., to discuss, inter alia, support for peace and political processes, the rule of law, human rights, democracy and the fight against corruption and impunity. They also explored opportunities to foster trilateral cooperation between OAS, the Caribbean Community and the United Nations. OAS, represented by its Executive Secretary for Integral Development, participated in my high-level interactive dialogue with heads of regional and other organizations in June 2018.

79. The United Nations has continued to cooperate with OAS and other stakeholders in Haiti, including through the Port-au-Prince-based Core Group on Haiti, a political coordination mechanism chaired by my Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti.

80. The United Nations and OAS have also reinforced their cooperation in the areas of drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice. The OAS Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission and UNODC have collaborated in exchanging data and analysis and in the development of platforms on justice, crime and narcotics-related issues. On disarmament affairs, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, together with the OAS Inter-American Committee against Terrorism, held a joint regional seminar in Lima in April 2017 on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

Organization of Islamic Cooperation

81. The United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) have maintained close contacts in relation to country- and region-specific situations, including in the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, and the question of Palestine. I met with the Secretary-General of OIC in September 2017 to discuss regional and international developments and ways to enhance our cooperation.

82. At the working level, the United Nations and OIC have improved "desk-to-desk" exchanges and increased mutual participation in meetings. In May 2017, the Department of Political Affairs and OIC held a brainstorming session on the Middle East at OIC headquarters in Jeddah. They also supported the organization of two international conferences on the question of Jerusalem under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in July 2017, in Baku, and in June 2018, in Rabat. Subsequently, the United Nations and OIC held their fourteenth general cooperation meeting in July 2018 in Rabat to review progress made and explore opportunities for enhanced cooperation. Furthermore, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism has established regular engagement with the OIC secretariat in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Office briefed the OIC Permanent Independent Commission on Human Rights in April 2017 and April 2018 on human rights and counter-terrorism issues.

83. At the technical level, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs have worked closely with OIC subsidiary organs, in particular the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries. Cooperation has included the organization of the Arab Conference on a Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics, held in Ankara in April 2017, and a workshop on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal indicator framework, held in Beirut in April 2017.

84. UNESCO has continued to maintain close cooperation with OIC mainly through the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in line with a framework of agreement signed in June 2012. The UNESCO Rabat office signed an agreement with the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in May 2017 to reinforce their collaboration on climate change and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

85. Finally, OIC has supported the work of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, including through its fellowship programme and the Global Youth Movement for the Alliance of Civilizations.

Pacific Islands Forum

86. The United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum have reinforced their engagement, including through regular meetings in the margins of the high-level week of the General Assembly and the summits of the Pacific Islands Forum. In addition, the Forum, represented by its Deputy Secretary-General, participated in my high-level interactive dialogue with heads of regional and other organizations in June 2018.

87. At the operational level, the United Nations continued to support the efforts of the Pacific Islands Forum secretariat and associated institutions in the implementation of internationally agreed commitments. The Forum secretariat collaborated with different United Nations entities to facilitate the holding of a regional preparatory meeting for Pacific small island developing States in Nuku'Alofa in June 2018. The meeting reviewed progress made in the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, in preparation for the high-level review of the Pathway to be held in New York in September 2019. ESCAP and UNDP, along with the Forum secretariat, have played key roles in the regional Sustainable Development Goals task force, which developed a road map for sustainable development in the Pacific that was endorsed by leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum in 2017.

88. ESCAP, the International Labour Organization, OHCHR, UNDP and UN-Women are active members of the gender working group of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific, which supports the implementation of and reporting on the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration. UN-Women, ESCAP and the Forum secretariat have collaborated in support of gender-responsive budgeting in the Pacific and supported regional efforts to promote women's participation and empowerment, including through the "practice parliament" initiative, which is designed to promote women's political participation throughout the Pacific through skills-building activities.

89. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific has worked closely with the Pacific Islands Forum to promote the implementation of global disarmament and non-proliferation instruments. The Centre also held a Pacific regional capacity-building workshop in Apia in September 2016 to foster dialogue on the requirements of the Arms Trade Treaty.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization

90. In June 2017, I attended the summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Astana and engaged in constructive discussions with leaders on issues related to peace and security, while the Deputy Secretary-General represented the United Nations at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit held in 2018. In addition, my Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia has maintained regular contacts with the leadership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on political and security developments in the region. The Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization participated in my high-level interactive dialogue with heads of regional and other organizations in June 2018.

91. At the operational level, the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization have strengthened their cooperation in the areas of counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism that is conducive to terrorism. The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia and the Office of Counter-Terrorism have worked with the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, including through expert meetings and regional

workshops, to promote the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

92. UNODC has enhanced its cooperation with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization through regular meetings and mutual participation of experts in regional trainings and workshops. In March 2018, UNODC and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization organized a high-level side event at the sixty-first session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held in Vienna, to discuss efforts to combat illicit narcotic drugs and to explore opportunities for closer cooperation in that regard. Other areas of cooperation have included the prevention and combating of cybercrime, including through the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on cybercrime, where the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is an observer.

93. ESCAP has provided financial and technical support for the formulation of an intergovernmental agreement among member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on the facilitation of international road transport, which entered into force on 20 January 2017. Subsequently, the two entities have conducted joint activities to support the implementation of that agreement and to facilitate regional economic cooperation and integration.

94. In 2018, UNESCO and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization signed a memorandum of understanding to provide a framework for cooperation with specific attention to General Assembly resolution 67/104 on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace. Cooperation will be developed in the areas of education, science, culture, communications and information with a view to strengthening peace, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue.

III. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons; and Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

95. The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs has been working with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education, with a particular emphasis on empowering women.

96. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is a member of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and co-chairs its Working Group on Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction Terrorist Attacks. Within the Working Group, the two entities continue to implement a global project to ensure the effective coordination of operations and communications in the event of chemical and biological attacks.

IV. Observations and recommendations

97. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations has deepened and diversified over the reporting period at the strategic, policy and operational levels. Our organizations are themselves diverse, with different mandates and memberships. Yet our substantive agendas increasingly converge in key areas of peace and security, sustainable development, humanitarian action, human rights and

the rule of law. Furthermore, we share a deep commitment to effective and rules-based multilateralism.

98. Regional and other organizations play a key role in preventive diplomacy, confidence-building and mediation, preventing violent extremism, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and long-term development. We must, therefore, focus on increased engagement with those entities towards sustaining peace, including through regular consultation, enhanced information-sharing, improved coordination and joint approaches and activities.

99. As I observed in the introduction to the present report, the challenges we face are complex, multidimensional, interconnected and have a high level of unpredictability. In seeking to tackle them, we must address their drivers as well, including lack of economic opportunities, marginalization, exclusion and discrimination. We must also empower women and girls, as well as harness the imagination of youth in creating stable and resilient societies. Alternative livelihoods, respect for human rights and solutions to poverty and human insecurity must be part of the answer, and the 2030 Agenda provides a guiding framework in that regard.

100. To further strengthen working relations between the United Nations and regional partners, we need to prioritize more effective cooperation and practical collaboration. At the strategic level, while we have done much to enhance coordination between us, we can further leverage our comparative advantages and improve our systems for consultation, especially where a number of organizations are working in the same area or on the same issue. We should also continue to build up and expand our bilateral, and in some cases trilateral, cooperation mechanisms, which are the backbone of much of what we can accomplish together in the field. Across the board, we must uphold the fundamental principles of cooperation: trust and good communication.

101. In the spirit of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, there is a need in the modern era for the United Nations and regional and other organizations to continue to work towards more effective, "network" multilateralism. Only by working together can we enhance our capacities to prevent and resolve conflicts and other crises that threaten humanity, to uphold human rights and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the interest of the peoples we collectively serve.

United Nations A/73/329

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 August 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Item 73 of the provisional agenda*
Right of peoples to self-determination

Right of peoples to self-determination

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In its resolution 72/159, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its seventy-third session on the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination. The present report is submitted in accordance with that request.

The report provides a summary of the main developments relating to the realization of the right to self-determination within the framework of the activities of the main organs of the United Nations since the submission of the previous report on the question (A/72/317).

* A/73/100.

18-13729 (E) 280818

Please recycle

I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in paragraph 1 of its resolution 72/159, reaffirmed that the universal realization of the right of all peoples to self-determination was a fundamental condition for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights and for the preservation and promotion of such rights.

2. The present report is submitted in accordance with paragraph six of resolution 72/159, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report on the question at its seventy-third session.

3. The report provides a summary of the main developments relating to the realization of the right of all peoples to self-determination within the framework of the activities of the main organs of the United Nations since the submission of the previous report (A/72/317).

4. The report also includes reference to the consideration of the issue within the framework of the Human Rights Council, both in its resolutions and in the reports submitted to the Council by special procedures mandate holders and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

5. In addition, it includes reference to concluding observations issued by the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which are based on their consideration of periodic reports submitted by the States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in respect of the implementation of the right of all peoples to self-determination guaranteed in common article 1 of the two Covenants.

II. Security Council

6. During the reporting period, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2351 (2017), the Secretary-General submitted to the Council a report on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2018/277). The report covered developments since the previous report (S/2017/307) and provided a description of the situation on the ground, the status and progress of the political negotiations on Western Sahara, the implementation of Council resolution 2351 (2017) and the challenges to the operations of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara and steps taken to address them. In his current report, the Secretary-General noted that, in his report of 2017, he had proposed that negotiating efforts be relaunched with a new dynamic and a new spirit, reflecting the Council's guidance, with the aim of reaching a "just, durable and mutually acceptable solution to the conflict in Western Sahara that will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara" (see S/2018/277, para. 77).

7. Having considered the report of the Secretary-General, the Security Council adopted resolution 2414 (2018). In paragraph 3 of the resolution, the Council called upon the parties to resume negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General without preconditions and in good faith, taking into account the efforts made since 2006 and subsequent developments, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which would provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, and noted the role and responsibilities of the parties in that respect.

III. General Assembly

8. During the reporting period, in addition to its resolution on the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination (resolution 72/159), the General Assembly adopted a number of resolutions in which it addressed the issue of self-determination. The resolutions concerned Non-Self-Governing Territories, the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. In addition, in paragraph 7 (a) of its resolution 72/172, the Assembly affirmed that a democratic and equitable international order required, inter alia, the realization of the right of all peoples to self-determination, by virtue of which they could freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

A. Non-Self-Governing Territories

9. In its resolution 72/92, the General Assembly reaffirmed the right of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination and their right to the enjoyment of their natural resources and to dispose of those resources in their best interest. It affirmed the value of foreign economic investment undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes in order to make a valid contribution to the socioeconomic development of the Territories, especially during times of economic and financial crisis. It reaffirmed the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and reaffirmed the legitimate rights of their peoples over their natural resources. The Assembly reaffirmed its concern about any activities aimed at the exploitation of the natural resources that were the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations, in the Caribbean, the Pacific and other regions, and of their human resources, to the detriment of their interests, and in such a way as to deprive them of their right to dispose of those resources. It reaffirmed the need to avoid any economic and other activities that adversely affected the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and reminded the administering Powers of their responsibility and accountability vis-à-vis any detriment to the interests of the peoples of those Territories. The Assembly invited all Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to take all possible measures to ensure that the permanent sovereignty of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories over their natural resources was fully respected and safeguarded. It urged the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requested the administering Powers to take all steps necessary to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories.

10. In its resolution 72/111, the General Assembly called upon the administering Powers, in accordance with resolutions on decolonization, to take all steps necessary to enable the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise fully, as soon as possible, their right to self-determination, including independence, on a case-by-case basis. In its resolution 72/94, the Assembly invited all States to make, or continue to make, offers of study and training facilities to the inhabitants of those Territories that had not yet attained self-government or independence and, wherever possible, to provide travel funds to prospective students.

11. In its resolution 72/95 on the question of Western Sahara, the General Assembly expressed support for the process of negotiations initiated by the Security Council to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which would provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, and commended the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy for Western Sahara in that respect. It welcomed the commitment of the parties to continue to show political will and work in an atmosphere propitious for dialogue in order to enter into a more intensive phase of negotiations, in good faith and without preconditions.

12. In its resolution 72/96 on the question of American Samoa, the General Assembly reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of American Samoa to self-determination, and also reaffirmed that it was ultimately for the people of American Samoa to determine freely their future political status. In that connection, the Assembly called upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination. It took note of the work of the territorial Government with respect to moving forward on political status, local autonomy and self-governance issues with a view to making political and economic progress.

13. In its resolution 72/97 on the question of Anguilla, the General Assembly reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Anguilla to self-determination, and also reaffirmed that it was ultimately for the people of Anguilla to determine freely their future political status. In that connection, the Assembly called upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination.

14. In its resolution 72/98 on the question of Bermuda, the General Assembly reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Bermuda to self-determination, and also reaffirmed that it was ultimately for the people of Bermuda to determine freely their future political status. In that connection, the Assembly called upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination.

15. In its resolution 72/99 on the question of the British Virgin Islands, the General Assembly reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of the British Virgin Islands to self-determination, and also reaffirmed that it was ultimately for the people of the British Virgin Islands to determine freely their future political status. In that connection, the Assembly called upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination.

16. In its resolution 72/100 on the question of the Cayman Islands, the General Assembly reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of the Cayman Islands to self-determination, and also reaffirmed that it was ultimately for the people of the Cayman Islands to determine freely their future political status. In that connection, the Assembly called upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination.

17. In its resolution 72/101 on the question of French Polynesia, the General Assembly reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of French Polynesia to self-

determination, and also reaffirmed that it was ultimately for the people of French Polynesia to determine freely their future political status. In that connection, the Assembly called upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of French Polynesia of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options and to intensify its dialogue with French Polynesia in order to facilitate rapid progress towards a fair and effective self-determination process, under which the terms and timelines for an act of self-determination would be agreed.

18. In its resolution 72/102 on the question of Guam, the General Assembly reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Guam to self-determination, and also reaffirmed that it was ultimately for the people of Guam to determine freely their future political status. In that connection, the Assembly called upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination. It called once again on the administering Power to take into consideration the expressed will of the Chamorro people as supported by Guam voters in the referendum of 1987 and as subsequently provided for in Guam law regarding Chamorro self-determination efforts, encouraged the administering Power and the territorial Government to enter into negotiations on the matter and stressed the need for continued close monitoring of the overall situation in the Territory.

19. In its resolution 72/103 on the question of Montserrat, the General Assembly reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Montserrat to self-determination, and also reaffirmed that it was ultimately for the people of Montserrat to determine freely their future political status. In that connection, the Assembly called upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination.

20. In its resolution 72/104 on the question of New Caledonia, the General Assembly reaffirmed that it was ultimately for the people of New Caledonia to determine freely and fairly their future political status, and in that connection called upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options. The Assembly expressed the view that adequate measures for conducting the upcoming consultations on access to full sovereignty, including a just, fair, credible and transparent electoral roll, as provided for in the Nouméa Accord, were essential for the conduct of a free, fair and genuine act of self-determination consistent with the Charter and United Nations principles and practices. In that respect, it welcomed the continuous dialogue undertaken by the parties within the framework of the Committee of Signatories to the Nouméa Accord to establish the parameters for the conduct of a conclusive act of self-determination, including the setting of an electoral roll, as provided for in the Accord. It called upon the administering Power to consider developing an education programme to inform the people of New Caledonia about the nature of self-determination so that they might be better prepared to face a future decision on the matter. The Assembly urged all the parties involved, in the interest of the people of New Caledonia and within the framework of the Nouméa Accord, to maintain their dialogue in a spirit of harmony and mutual respect in order to continue to promote a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of

self-determination in which all options were open and the rights of all sectors of the population would be safeguarded, based on the principle that it was for the people of New Caledonia to choose how to determine their destiny.

21. In its resolution 72/105 on the question of Pitcairn, the General Assembly reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Pitcairn to self-determination, and also reaffirmed that it was ultimately for the people of Pitcairn to determine freely their future political status. In that connection, the Assembly called upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination. It welcomed all efforts by the administering Power and the territorial Government to further devolve operational responsibilities to the Territory, with a view to gradually expanding self-government, including through the training of local personnel.

22. In its resolution 72/106 on the question of Saint Helena, the General Assembly reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Saint Helena to self-determination, and also reaffirmed that it was ultimately for the people of Saint Helena to determine freely their future political status. In that connection, the Assembly called upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination.

23. In its resolution 72/107 on the question of Tokelau, the General Assembly acknowledged the decision of the General Fono in 2008 that consideration of any future act of self-determination by Tokelau would be deferred. It welcomed the cooperative attitude of the other States and territories in the region towards Tokelau and their support for its economic and political aspirations and its increasing participation in regional and international affairs.

24. In its resolution 72/108 on the question of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the General Assembly reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands to self-determination, and also reaffirmed that it was ultimately for the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands to determine freely their future political status. In that connection, the Assembly called upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination.

25. In its resolution 72/109 on the question of the United States Virgin Islands, the General Assembly reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of the United States Virgin Islands to self-determination, and also reaffirmed that it was ultimately for the people of the United States Virgin Islands to determine freely their future political status. In that connection, the Assembly called upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination.

B. Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

26. In its resolution 72/158, the General Assembly urged all States to take the steps necessary and to exercise the utmost vigilance against the menace posed by the activities of mercenaries, and to take legislative measures to ensure that their

territories and other territories under their control were not used for, and that their nationals did not take part in, the recruitment, assembly, financing, training, protection or transit of mercenaries for the planning of activities designed to impede the right of peoples to self-determination, to destabilize or overthrow the Government of any State or to dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States conducting themselves in accordance with the right of peoples to self-determination. It requested the Working Group of the Human Rights Council on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination to continue to study and identify sources and causes, emerging issues, manifestations and trends regarding mercenaries or mercenary-related activities and private military and security companies and their impact on human rights, particularly on the right of peoples to self-determination. It also requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to publicize the adverse effects of the activities of mercenaries on the right of peoples to self-determination and to render advisory services to States that were affected by those activities.

C. Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination

27. The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the right to their independent State of Palestine, was reaffirmed by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/160. In the resolution, the Assembly also urged States and the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to support and assist the Palestinian people in the early realization of their right to self-determination. The Assembly also called for the realization of the Palestinian people's human rights, including the right to self-determination, in its resolutions 72/14, 72/84 and 72/87.

28. In its resolution 72/13, the General Assembly, having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (A/72/35), requested the Committee, inter alia, to continue to exert all efforts to promote the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination. The Assembly invited all Governments and organizations to extend their cooperation and support to the Committee in the performance of its tasks, recalling its repeated call for all States and the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to support and assist the Palestinian people in the early realization of their right to self-determination, including the right to their independent State of Palestine.

29. The economic aspect of the right to self-determination, namely, the right of peoples to sovereignty over their natural resources, was reaffirmed by the General Assembly with regard to the Palestinian people in its resolution 72/240.

IV. Economic and Social Council

30. In its resolution 2017/31, the Economic and Social Council either recommended or requested a number of measures that specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system should adopt in support of Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Council reaffirmed that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entailed, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples, on a case-by-case basis.

V. Human Rights Council

A. Resolutions

31. At its thirty-fifth session, held from 6 to 23 June 2017, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 35/20 on human rights and climate change. In the resolution, the Council emphasized that the adverse effects of climate change had a range of implications, both direct and indirect, for the effective enjoyment of human rights, including for the right to self-determination.

32. At its thirty-sixth session, held from 11 to 29 September 2017, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 36/3 on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination. In the resolution, the Council condemned mercenary activities in developing countries in various parts of the world, in particular in areas of conflict, and the threat those activities posed to the integrity of and respect for the constitutional order of countries and the exercise of the right to self-determination. It urged all States to take the necessary steps and to exercise the utmost vigilance against the threat posed by the activities of mercenaries, and to take legislative measures to ensure that their territories and other territories under their control, as well as their nationals, were not used for the recruitment, assembly, financing, training, protection and transit of mercenaries for the planning of activities designed to impede the right to self-determination, to overthrow the Government of any State or to dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States conducting themselves in compliance with the right of peoples to self-determination.

33. At its thirty-seventh session, held from 26 February to 23 March 2018, the Human Rights Council addressed the question of the realization of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination in its resolutions 37/34, 37/35 and 37/36. In its resolution 37/34, the Council reaffirmed the inalienable, permanent and unqualified right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including their right to live in freedom, justice and dignity and the right to their independent State of Palestine. It confirmed that the right of the Palestinian people to permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources must be used in the interest of their national development, the well-being of the Palestinian people and as part of the realization of their right to self-determination, and urged all States to adopt measures, as required, to promote the realization of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people and to render assistance to the United Nations in carrying out the responsibilities entrusted to it by the Charter regarding the implementation of that right. In its resolution 37/35, the Council stressed the need for the occupying Power to withdraw from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, so as to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their universally recognized right to self-determination. In its resolution 37/36, the Council called upon the occupying Power to put an end to all of the human rights violations linked to the presence of settlements, especially of the right to self-determination, and to fulfil its international obligations to provide effective remedy for victims.

B. Special procedures and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

34. In her report to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session (A/72/186), the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of indigenous peoples provided an assessment on the status of implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Special Rapporteur concluded

that there had been limited progress in the actual implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples. That was observed in particular with regard to the core rights of indigenous peoples to self-determination and their rights to their lands, territories and resources (ibid., para. 86). In her report to the Council at its thirty-sixth session (A/HRC/36/46), the Special Rapporteur provided an analysis of the impacts of climate change and climate finance on indigenous peoples' rights. She noted that the denial of indigenous peoples' right to self-determination and to their economic, social and cultural rights was strongly linked to indigenous peoples' historical experiences of marginalization, dispossession, the environmental destruction of their ancestral lands and their lack of autonomy, and warned that unless climate finance recognized that inequality, it could contribute to the causes of poverty and further denial of the right to self-determination among indigenous communities (ibid., para. 41).

35. In his report to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-seventh session, the Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order noted that a democratic and equitable international order was one in which peoples and nations enjoyed equitable representation, not only in the General Assembly, but also in regional and international financial institutions, in which, inter alia, they exercised their right to self-determination (see A/HRC/37/63, para. 12). He recalled that the right of peoples to self-determination was a fundamental principle of the international order affirmed in the Charter and in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and that timely dialogue for the realization of self-determination was an effective conflict-prevention measure (ibid., para. 14 (d)). He noted that the implementation of the right to self-determination was not exclusively within the domestic jurisdiction of the State concerned but was a legitimate concern of the international community (ibid., para. 33) and that any process aimed at self-determination should be accompanied by the participation and consent of the peoples concerned (ibid., para. 35).

36. In its report to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination noted that in certain crises around the world, such as in occupied territories, the use of private security contractors to limit and prohibit people's right to liberty and free movement through deprivation of liberty was a means of deliberately undermining a people's right to self-determination (see A/72/286, para. 36). In its report to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-sixth session (A/HRC/36/47), the Working Group provided an overview of the findings of a global study conducted from 2013 to 2016 on the national legislation on private military and security companies in 60 States from all the regions of the world. The report concluded that it was necessary to fill existing gaps and promote international, regional and subregional agreements for the regulation of private military and security companies to effectively protect the rule of law, human rights and, especially in conjunction with the use of private military and security companies in extractive industries, the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (ibid., para. 64).

37. In his report to the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 stated that international human rights law, including the overarching right to self-determination, was integral to the application of the laws of occupation (see A/72/556, para. 23) and that the right of peoples to self-determination, recognized as a right *erga omnes* in international law, applied to all peoples under occupation and other forms of alien rule (ibid., para. 24). He added that the entrenched and unaccountable occupation — through its denial of territorial integrity, genuine self-governance, a sustainable economy and a viable path to independence —

substantively violated, and undermined, the right of the Palestinians to self-determination, the platform right that enabled the realization of many other rights (ibid., para. 62).

38. In his report to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-sixth session, the Special Rapporteur on the right to development recalled that Articles 1, 55 and 56 of the Charter established the foundations of the right to development by stating that the creation of conditions of stability and well-being were necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples (see A/HRC/36/49, para. 8). He also recalled that the Declaration on the Right to Development stated that the human right to development implied the full realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, which includes, subject to the relevant provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the exercise of their inalienable right to full sovereignty over all their natural wealth and resources (ibid., para. 9).

39. The Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples presented to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-sixth session a report (A/HRC/36/56) intended to highlight the main legal and policy trends in the past 10 years in the application of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples across the United Nations and regional and national human rights systems, and to contribute to its further implementation. The report noted that, despite many good practices, indigenous peoples in some regions, including in a number of States in Asia and Africa, still struggled for legal recognition and respect for self-determination, and recommended that States refrain from hindering or limiting self-determination initiatives and recognize and learn from indigenous peoples' own initiatives to advance the implementation of the Declaration at the national level (ibid., para. 74).

VI. Human rights treaty bodies

40. The right of all peoples to self-determination is affirmed in article 1, paragraph 1, of both the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It is in that context that the right to self-determination has been addressed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Human Rights Committee[1] in their consideration of the periodic reports of States parties. The relevant concluding observations adopted during the reporting period are highlighted below.

A. Concluding observations by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

41. In its concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Australia (E/C.12/AUS/CO/5), adopted at its sixty-first session, held from 29 May to 23 June 2017, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights expressed concern about insufficient compliance with the principle of free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples, including in the context of developing the white paper on the development of northern Australia and of the approval of extractive projects on lands owned or traditionally used by indigenous peoples (ibid., para. 15 (d)). The Committee recommended that Australia ensure that the principle of free, prior and informed consent was incorporated into the Native Title Act 1993 and into other legislation as appropriate and was fully implemented in practice (ibid., para. 16 (e)).

[1] See also Human Rights Committee, general comment No. 12 (see HRI/GEN/1/Rev.9 (Vol. I)).

42. In its concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Colombia (E/C.12/COL/CO/6), adopted at its sixty-second session, held from 18 September to 6 October 2017, the Committee noted the efforts made to ensure the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights by indigenous peoples and Afro-Colombians, but expressed remaining concern regarding reports of inadequate implementation of the process of prior consultation with a view to obtaining free, prior and informed consent, particularly in relation to natural resource development and exploitation projects likely to affect their territories (ibid., para. 17). The Committee recommended that Colombia carry out a broad process of consultation and participation in the drafting and adoption of the draft statutory act on prior consultation; ensure that the legislation complied with international standards, including the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and ensure that consultations held with a view to obtaining indigenous and Afro-Colombian peoples' free, prior and informed consent to decisions that might affect the exercise of their economic, social and cultural rights were conducted as an unavoidable and timely step, taking into account the cultural differences of each people and carrying out studies of the impact that such measures might have on the exercise of their rights (ibid., para. 18 (a)–(b)).

43. In its concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Mexico (E/C.12/MEX/CO/5-6), adopted at its sixty-second session, the Committee expressed concern at the fact that protocols on prior consultation were not followed systematically, partly because they were non-binding, and that therefore the right of indigenous peoples to prior consultation with a view to obtaining their free, prior and informed consent was not fully respected, particularly when it came to the execution of economic projects and the development of natural resources. In addition, the Committee was concerned by the negative impact of such projects on the effective enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights by the indigenous peoples concerned (ibid., para. 12). The Committee recommended that Mexico ensure that indigenous peoples were consulted in advance in a systematic and transparent manner with a view to obtaining their free, prior and informed consent with respect to decisions likely to affect them, especially before it granted permits for economic activities in territories that they had traditionally owned, occupied or used. In that regard, the Committee encouraged Mexico to establish, in consultation with indigenous peoples, effective, appropriate and legally binding protocols that fully guaranteed respect for that right or, where appropriate, to apply existing protocols, taking into account the cultural characteristics and customs and practices of each indigenous community and in accordance with applicable international standards (ibid., para. 13 (a)).

44. In its concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of the Russian Federation (E/C.12/RUS/CO/6), adopted at its sixty-second session, the Committee expressed concern at the limited prior consultation with indigenous peoples, especially in the context of extractive activities carried out on lands owned or traditionally used by them. The Committee was concerned that the requirement of free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples was rarely complied with in practice (ibid., para. 14). It recommended that the Russian Federation, inter alia, take effective measures to ensure compliance with the requirement of free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples, notably in the context of extractive activities, improve the legislative and institutional provisions relating to projects for the exploitation of natural resources, in consultation with indigenous peoples, and strengthen its capacity to oversee extractive industries to ensure that they did not have a negative impact on the rights of indigenous peoples and their territories and natural resources (ibid., para. 15 (b)–(c)).

45. In its concluding observations on the initial report of Bangladesh (E/C.12/BGD/CO/1), adopted at its sixty-third session, held from 12 to 29 March 2018, the Committee expressed concern about the absence of explicit constitutional and legislative recognition of the rights of those who self-identified as indigenous peoples in the State, at repeated reports of expropriation of ancestral land of indigenous peoples where the requirements of free, prior and informed consent were not met and at the lack of appropriate mechanisms to enable affected indigenous persons and communities to take part in decision-making processes (ibid., para. 15). It recommended that Bangladesh, inter alia, ensure that the requirements of free, prior and informed consent were met in all cases of expropriation of land of indigenous peoples and provide effective mechanisms through which indigenous peoples could seek remedies for the deprivation of ancestral lands (ibid., para. 16 (c)–(d)).

46. In its concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of New Zealand (E/C.12/NZL/CO/4), adopted at its sixty-third session, the Committee expressed concern at the limited efforts that had been made to ensure the meaningful participation of the Maori people in decision-making concerning laws that affected their rights, including land and water rights. It was also concerned that the principle of free, prior and informed consent was not systematically implemented, in particular in the context of development and extractive activities carried out on territories owned or traditionally used by the Maori population (ibid., para. 8). The Committee recommended that New Zealand, inter alia, take effective measures to ensure compliance with the requirement of obtaining the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples, notably in the context of extractive and development activities, and conduct social, environmental and human rights impact assessments prior to granting licences for extractive and development activities and during operations (ibid., para. 9 (e)).

B. Concluding observations by the Human Rights Committee

47. At its 122nd session, held from 12 March to 6 April 2018, the Human Rights Committee adopted concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Norway (CCPR/C/NOR/CO/7). The Committee expressed concern that, inter alia, the right to effective participation through consultations to obtain free, prior and informed consent was not yet granted in law or ensured in practice; a strong legislative framework ensuring land and resource rights to the Sami peoples, including fishing and reindeer husbandry, was lacking; and the Government had not yet followed up on the proposals of the Sami Rights Committee from 2007 on land and resource rights outside of Finnmark (ibid., para. 36). The Committee recommended that Norway, inter alia, ensure meaningful consultation with the Sami peoples in practice and adopt a law for consultations with a view to obtaining their free, prior and informed consent, in consultation with them; enhance the legal framework on Sami land, fishing and reindeer rights, ensuring in particular that fishing rights were recognized by law; and ensure effective and speedy follow-up to the proposals of the Sami Rights Committee of 2007 regarding land and resource rights in Sami areas outside of Finnmark (ibid., para. 37 (b) and (d)–(e)).

VII. Conclusions

48. **It is among the purposes of the United Nations, elaborated in Article 1 of the Charter, "to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace". The right of peoples to self-determination is also enshrined in article 1 of both the International**

Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which states that all peoples have the right to self-determination and that by virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

49. During the reporting period, the main organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, continued to discuss and adopt resolutions that referred to the right to self-determination, including resolutions concerning Non-Self-Governing Territories, the use of mercenaries and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. The Human Rights Council, a subsidiary organ of the Assembly, also continued to discuss and adopt resolutions that referred to that right.

50. The special procedures of the Human Rights Council and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples also discussed the implementation of the right of peoples to self-determination, including in relation to the human rights challenges faced by indigenous peoples, and its importance as a fundamental principle of international order.

51. The human rights treaty bodies addressed the right of peoples to self-determination through concluding observations on the periodic reports submitted by States parties to relevant treaties.

52. All States have an obligation to promote the realization of the right to self-determination and to respect that right, in conformity with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. In addition, as noted by the Human Rights Committee in relation to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the current 171 States parties to the Covenant should take positive action to facilitate the realization of and respect for the right of peoples to self-determination.[2] Such positive action must be consistent with the obligations of States under the Charter and international law. In particular, States must refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of other States and thereby adversely affecting the exercise of the right to self-determination. The effective implementation of the right of peoples to self-determination will contribute to greater enjoyment of human rights, peace and stability, and thereby prevent conflict.

[2] See Human Rights Committee, general comment No. 12, para. 6 (see HRI/GEN/1/Rev.9 (Vol. I)); see also Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, general recommendation XXI, para. 3 (see HRI/GEN/1/Rev.9 (Vol. II)).